red eye

Wednesday
DECEMBER 3, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune publication

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REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

FEED ME!

Meter prices going up. Way up—to as much as $6.50 an hour
pages 6-7

POP CULTURE MILLIONAIRES

page 54

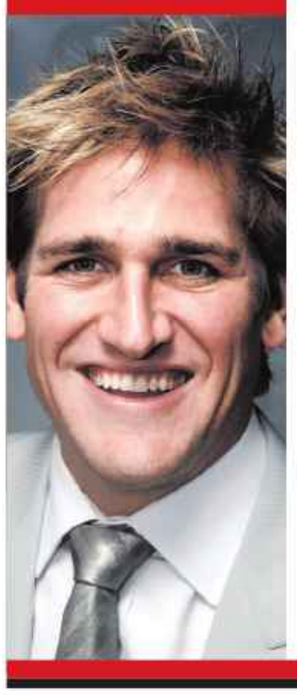
Bus stop treats just like Mom used to make ***8***

What does your cell phone say about you? ***40***

metromix
Answer the call of the wild at these hot new bars ***21***

2do

» Curtis Stone



To taste
Get tips on holiday entertaining and taste food prepared by chef Curtis Stone at a book signing and demonstration from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Williams-Sonoma (142 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook).

To style
Check out holiday dresses from SHE Boutique and hairstyles from Brilli Salon while drinking A:M Vodka cocktails at a free event hosted by Gen Art from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Vertigo at Dana Hotel and Spa (2 W. Erie St.). RSVP to **rsvpchicago@genart.com**.

To watch
Check out Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Winter Series Wednesday through Sunday at Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park. Tickets: $25-$86 at **hubbardstreetdance.com**.

To save
Bundle up by buying a coat or jacket for 25 percent off through Saturday at Florodora (330 S. Dearborn St.). Customers also get free hot apple cider.

What's the deal

Value vino
For the wine-curious who have moved beyond two-buck Chuck but still can't quite afford to drop a ton of dough on wine, check out **radcru.com**. The online wine distributor selects one winery a day to sell direct to the public. The site's daily offering usually features a small-batch boutique wine—stuff you won't find at the corner liquor store—most of the time at a discount and with free ground shipping. Tuesday's special was a $104 six-bottle sampler from Napa Valley winery Cameron Hughes. That's about $17 a bottle. Not bad.

txtable

Random dilemma

We asked. You responded. Here are the results from Tuesday's Random Dilemma, in which we asked if you would rather give a speech or sing a song before a large audience.

62% Give a speech before a large audience

38% Sing a song before a large audience

Here's another: Which would you rather do? Text **"random"** and the number of your response to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

Go without TV for a year (1)
OR Only eat food without any flavor for a year (2)

Do you have an idea for our Random Dilemma? Send it to us at **ritaredeye@tribune.com**.

37 19
TODAY'S FORECAST
Prepare for a few inches of snow.

THU. **25** 14
Brrr!

FRI. **27** 23
Cloudy and cold

SAT. **31** 15
Chance of snow

SUN. **27** 22
Bundle up

Look Your Thinnest for the Holidays!

NuU medspa

Acne Treatments
Age Management
BOTOX® Cosmetic
Chemical Peels
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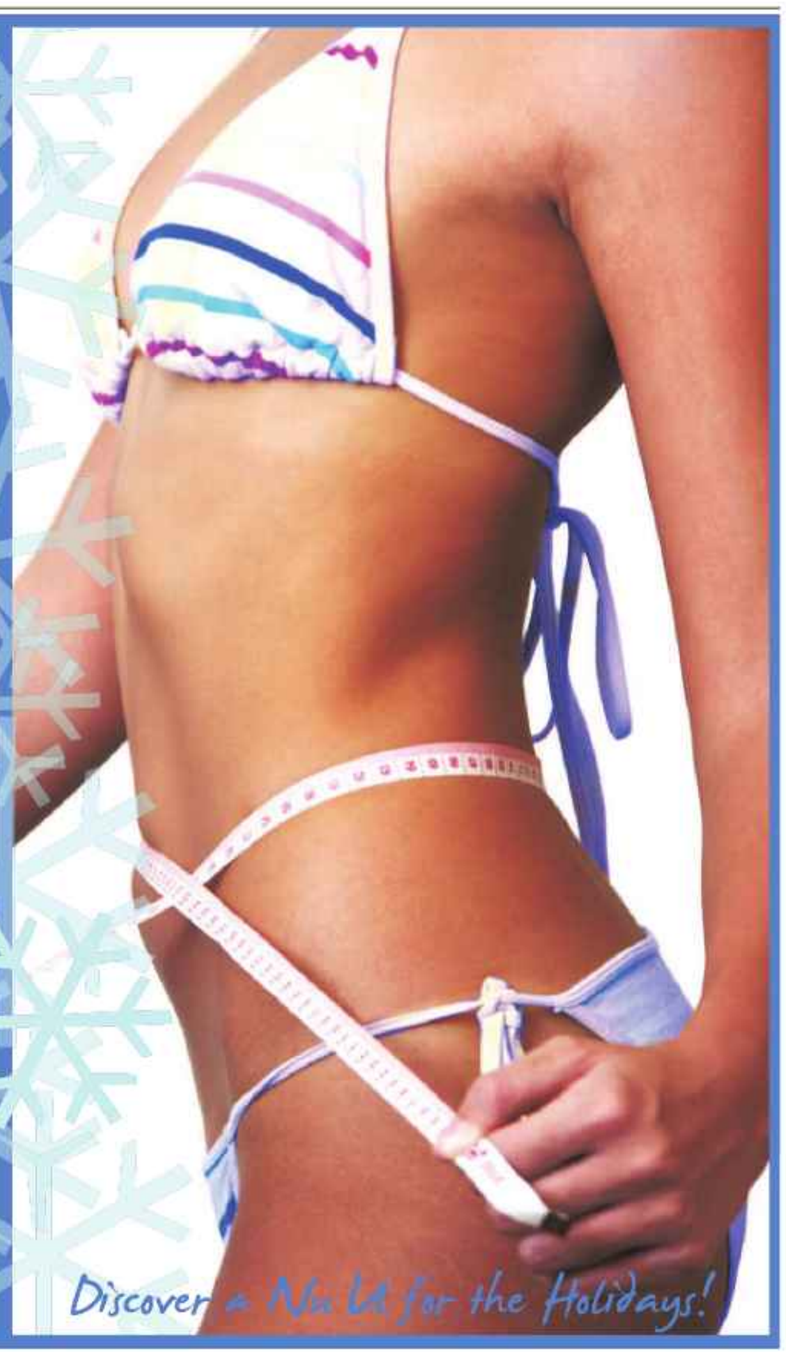

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Big Three road trip for funds

Ford CEO Alan Mulally (from left), Chrysler CEO Robert Nardelli and GM CEO Rick Wagoner attend a Congressional hearing Nov. 18. They are preparing for a new round of hearings Thursday and Friday. AP PHOTO

Humbled automakers back in Washington this week with revised pleas for federal help

Associated Press

Detroit's automakers, making a second bid for $25 billion in funding, presented Congress with plans Tuesday to restructure their ailing companies and provide assurances that the funding will help them survive and thrive.

And this time around, their CEOs will be arriving by car, not private jet.

General Motors, Ford and Chrysler said they would refinance their companies' debt, cut executive pay, seek concessions from workers and find other ways of reviving their staggering companies.

The Big Three executives also are offering a series of mostly symbolic moves to burnish their images, badly tattered after they arrived in Washington, D.C., last month on three separate private jets to plead for a federal lifeline for their struggling companies. All three companies offered separate plans for hearings that will be held Thursday and Friday.

"I think we learned a lot from that experience," Ford CEO Alan Mulally told The Associated Press in an interview.

Mulally said he'd work for $1 per year if his firm had to take any government loan money. The company's plan also says it will cancel all management employees' 2009 bonuses, scrap merit increases for its North American salaried employees next year and sell its five corporate aircraft.

Mulally left Detroit for Washington on Tuesday afternoon in a hybrid Ford Escape, and is coming by car for this week's second round of congressional hearings on government help for the Big Three. GM Chief Rick Wagoner will drive a Chevrolet Malibu hybrid sedan, spokesman Tony Cervone said Tuesday. And Chrysler CEO Robert Nardelli won't travel by corporate jet, but a spokeswoman declined to elaborate on his travel plans, citing security reasons.

GM also said in a statement Tuesday that it will cease operating its aircraft services at Detroit Metro Airport.

Meanwhile, the auto companies released new sales numbers that underlined the punishing business environment facing the Big Three. Ford said its November U.S. light vehicle sales tumbled 31 percent amid a continued slump in consumer spending and tight credit markets. Sales at Toyota, Japan's No. 1 automaker, fell 34 percent despite its extension of zero-percent financing on a dozen vehicles.

Ford unveiled its rescue blueprint on Tuesday, asking Congress for a $9 billion "stand-by line of credit" to stabilize its business, but saying it doesn't expect to tap it.

Unless one of Detroit's other Big Three auto companies goes bust, Ford expects to have enough money to make it through next year without government help, it said in a plan that projected the firm will break even or turn a pretax profit in 2011.

THE BACKGROUND

U.S. automakers are struggling to stay afloat heading into 2009 under the weight of an economic meltdown, the worst auto sales in decades and a tight credit market. General Motors, Ford and Chrysler went through nearly $18 billion in cash reserves during the last quarter, and GM and Chrysler have said they could collapse in weeks.

Criminal mindlessness?

The world is full of silly people. Exhibit A: These news stories from the past week.

Two drivers, one car

WHERE: East Meadow, N.Y.

WHAT HAPPENED: Police on Long Island say they pulled two drunken drivers from one car. Nassau County officers say they spotted a woman trying to make a three-point turn on a road in East Meadow. They say that when she couldn't complete the maneuver, she switched places with a male passenger, who took the steering wheel. Police pulled them over and charged them with drunken driving. They were arraigned last Friday.

VERDICT: Misery loves company.

Jewel of denial

WHERE: Naples, Fla.

WHAT HAPPENED: An X-ray marked the spot for southwest Florida police who say a teenager swallowed a $16 pair of earrings after taking them from a JCPenney store. Authorities say William Colburn, 18, was in the store on Saturday when security saw him drop the earrings into a bottle of water and leave. When a security officer approached him, authorities say the Colburn drank the water. Police said Monday the X-ray confirmed the earrings were inside him.

VERDICT: Good luck retrieving 'em.

Baffling raffle

WHERE: Columbus, Ohio

WHAT HAPPENED: An Ohio State University academic adviser and a real estate agent held a $10-a-ticket raffle that offered an evening with a prostitute, police said. Christopher Johnson, 33, an academic adviser at OSU's School of Nursing, organized the raffle through a Craigslist chat board, police said. Real estate agent Rusty Blades, 42, held the invitation-only party at his house in October. Both were charged with promoting prostitution. OSU spokesman Jim Lynch said that Johnson was placed on unpaid leave.

VERDICT: Yikes.

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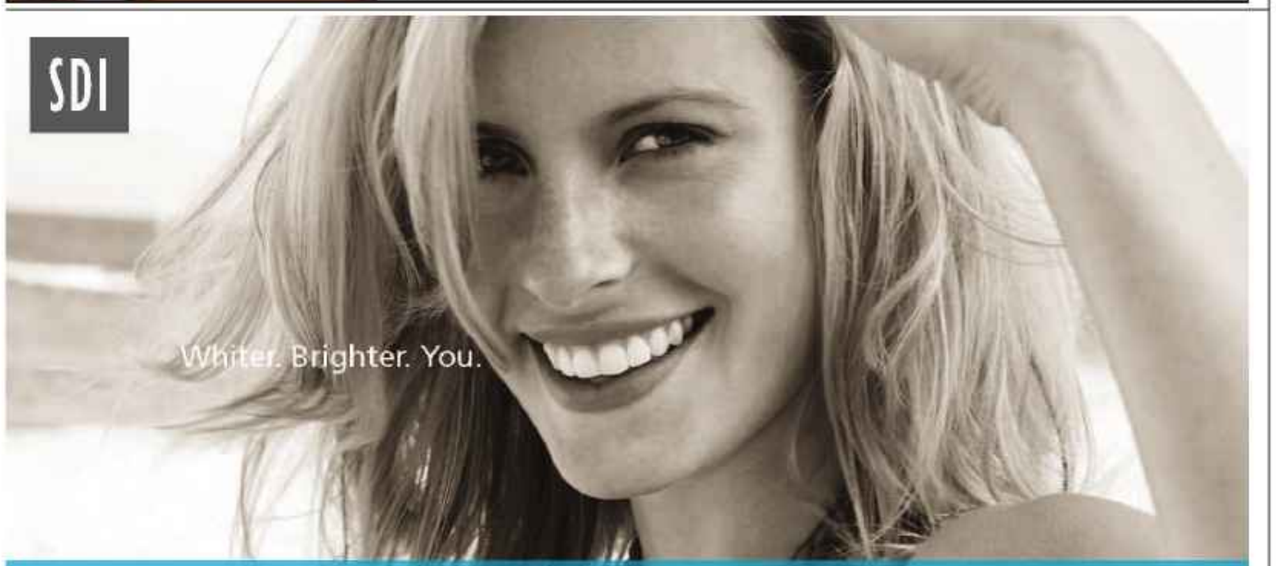

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hey, cta

Have something to say about public transit in Chicago? Send your ideas and opinions to goingpublic@tribune.com.

"I held up my hands to get his attention, the driver gave me a shrug, but then preceded to stop just past the intersection. So I started to run to the other side of the street, when the bus just pulls out and leaves me there. I was amazed at how rude this bus driver was."

CTA riders rail on the service

Could every line be a green line? In Tuesday's "Going Public," columnist Kyra Kyles explored some eco-friendly ideas submitted by riders. On another track, riders wrote in with complaints ranging from bus operators barreling past them at stops to turning down the volume on cell phones and iPods.

Bus, stop

This morning I was walking to the [No. 77-Belmont] bus stop on Racine and Belmont. I was about a quarter of a block away and I saw four buses go by in the span of 1 minute, one right after another.

When I reached the stop I thankfully saw another bus right away. But the bus driver blew right past me. I held up my hands to get his attention, the driver gave me a shrug, but then preceded to stop just past the intersection. So I started to run to the other side of the street, when the bus just pulls out and leaves me there. I was amazed at how rude this bus driver was.

Sadly this thing happens all of the time. I feel like the No. 77 buses are in a race to see who can finish the route first and don't care about leaving CTA customers behind. *–MEREDITH FREYRE, 27, LAKEVIEW*

iPod rules

Natalie Gordon gave a valiant effort with her iPod rules of engagement ["Hey, CTA!," Nov. 26] to help her get to work on time. Maybe she should leave a little earlier, but that's an entirely different subject. But I have the real rules of engagement: Turn your iPods down. It will save your ear drums and your sense of hearing down the road, you will be able to hear announcements and you won't be obnoxious.

To those of you who counter and say the point of your headphones is to drown out everything else, there is a volume where you can enjoy your music and also hear something else going on. It's annoying to hear music blasting from a person next to you because their volume is cranked up.

While we are at it, that gabby 15-minute cell phone conversation with someone sitting or standing right next to you, we can do without that too. Common courtesy, people. And if possible, offer a seat to the elderly, injured, small children, or just someone who looks like they have had a rough day. *–PETER HINSDALE, 27, BUCKTOWN*

CORRECTIONS

A Red Hot item in Monday's RedEye about Paris Hilton's next album included an incorrect quote attributed to Hilton. The correct quote is: "I wrote all the songs. It's very dance, like Kylie Minogue."

Will Smith's character in the movie "Seven Pounds" was misidentified in Tuesday's Whoville. Smith's character is Ben Thomas.

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The Twitterverse reacts

With parking meter rates in Chicago set to quadruple, we asked RedEye's Twitter followers if that would change their driving habits. Here are some responses. Want to give your 2 cents? Join us at **twitter.com/redeyechicago.**

@freeandflawed I don't drive if I can help it. But I think it's ridiculous how it's becoming impossible to afford traveling in our own city.

@ms_genevieve I'd rather pay a new toll to come into downtown Chicago than pay anymore at the parking meters. $6.50?? Yikes!

@ GaryBurtka If parking meter rates in Chicago quadruple ... I will have to get a wagon to hall my quarters in. what will it be $8 an hour

@djpillsburyd I plan on buying a black suv and traveling with the Obama caravan getting free parking everywhere I go.

@sam_ash I almost cried; that's so ridiculous. Its bad enough that I'm paying $14 a week on the CTA to go to school.

@rein_sangeki Just watch as the parking meter quadruples, double parking will too ...

@aprilds Whoa! It definitely could, but I don't drive much as it us because it is a hassle to park already.

@vaughnchicago I guess folks will either get nickel & dimed by the city on the parking, or by the CTA on the transit fare.

@richreising Increasingly frustrated, I will continue to battle for what little free parking remains near my office

@jrrtubbs I sold my car a few months ago and i couldn't be happier, i just wish i had gotten more than 50 Bucks for it

@cschwarz My driving habit won't change... But my parking habit will :)

A woman fills her parking meter along Halsted Street just north of Maxwell Street on Tuesday in Chicago. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

DOLLAR MENU

You could go with this, or you could go with that. What else can you get right now for what it will cost to park at city parking meters? Allow us to do some comparison shopping (food-related, 'cause we have priorities, people). REDEYE

*Before tax unless otherwise noted.

One hour of parking at most city meters in 2009.

OR

The McDouble from McDonald's.*

One hour of parking at most city meters in 2013.

OR

A tall Americano coffee at a Michigan Avenue Starbucks.*

Hungry, hungry meters

City adds parking pain to menu of tax, fee and fare hikes for 2009

Chicago Tribune

If you plan to park at a meter anywhere in Chicago, get ready to carry plenty of change: Rates will quadruple next month for most spots in the city.

At most meters, where a single quarter now buys 60 minutes, the charge will spike to $1 per hour. And by 2013, it will cost $2 an hour to park in those same spaces.

The most expensive spots downtown will increase from $3 an hour to $6.50 in the next five years under a lease deal Mayor Daley announced Tuesday.

The $3-an-hour fee to park at prime Loop spots increases to $3.50, effective as soon as Jan. 1. After that, the price goes up 75 cents a year through 2013, when it hits $6.50 an hour. Elsewhere downtown, the $1 an hour will double to $2 next year and hit $4 an hour in 2013.

In city neighborhoods, the rate jumps to $1 an hour, with an extra quarter tacked on each year through 2013, when the price reaches $2 an hour.

City officials said rates on many meters had not been increased in more than 20 years. But the increases come on top of a blizzard of other recent tax and fee increases that make it more expensive to live and play downtown.

After Cook County leaders pushed the sales tax in Chicago to 10.25 percent—as high as anywhere in the country—the city's new budget includes an expansion of red-light cameras, more aggressive booting of cars with unpaid parking tickets and higher taxes on downtown parking garages and tickets to sporting events and shows. That trend wasn't lost on drivers hunting for parking spots Tuesday.

"It just never stops," said Mark Devino, who dashes outside his Lakeview pizzeria every two hours to feed the meter. "We're getting hit from every angle."

Despite the rate hikes, Daley hailed the parking meter plan as an innovative approach to surviving the city's deepening budget woes. A private company has agreed to give City Hall an upfront payment of almost $1.2 billion to run Chicago's parking meter system for the next 75 years.

Even that windfall won't come close to solving the Daley administration's budget problems, however. Daley projects shortfalls of at least $200 million a year for several years to come.

"That could grow. That could get much bigger" if the nation's economic recession worsens, he said.

The City Council's Finance Committee is scheduled to debate the parking meter lease agreement Wednesday, with a final vote of the full council expected Thursday. Aldermen have given quick and overwhelming approval to all of Daley's groundbreaking privatization efforts in recent years, eagerly accepting enormous checks for long-term leases of the Chicago Skyway toll road ($1.83 billion), downtown parking garages ($563 million) and Midway ($2.5 billion).

That big money for City Hall has meant higher costs for the public. Under private operators, it costs 50 percent more to drive on the Skyway and almost 40 percent more to leave your car at Millennium Park's garage.

Daley dodged questions Tuesday about what other assets the city could rent for cash: "We're not going to be telling you this now."

The mayor's plan for spending the parking-meter money is an about-face from a year ago, when he rejected the notion of using any of the money from the long-term lease to help deal with immediate budget gaps.

On Tuesday, Daley said $400 million from the parking meter deal will go into a long-term reserve, but $325 million will be spent to shore up city budgets through 2012. Another $324 million is headed toward a fund officials said "may be used to help bridge the period until the nation's economy begins to grow again." The city also is earmarking $100 million for programs helping low-income people.

The winning bid for the parking meters came from a company formed largely by three infrastructure funds run by New York-based Morgan Stanley, which also won the lease for downtown city-owned garages in 2006.

The mayor's nephew, William Daley Jr., works for Morgan Stanley and lobbies state and Cook County officials on the firm's behalf. Morgan Stanley spokeswoman Marie Ali said he had no involvement in the Chicago deal.

The Daley administration said the winners merely offered the biggest check of any qualified bidder.

Burning questions

When will the new meter rates take effect, assuming the Chicago City Council approves the deal?
On Jan. 1 officially, but it will take time to change all the meters.

Can I still pop in a quarter and be covered while I run into the neighborhood dry cleaners?
Yes, but that quarter will get you only 15 minutes instead of an hour.

Will I need a pocket full of quarters?
All meters must be fitted for credit cards by summer 2011.

Who will write the parking tickets for expired meters?
The city will write tickets, but the new operator will be able to as well. The city will continue to collect and keep fine payments.

Will the fines for parking tickets increase too?
Only if the Chicago City Council approves.

Are parking garage rates likely to go up as a result of this?
It's not likely downtown, aldermen say, because it will still cost less to park at meters for a few hours, even at $6.50 an hour, unless a driver gets a low early-bird, all-day rate. Outside the Loop, higher rates could push some all-day meter feeders into garages and parking lots.

What can people who don't like the idea do?
They can call their alderman, who will vote on the plan Thursday, and voice their objections.

One hour of parking at downtown city meters in 2009.

OR

A bottle of Charles Shaw wine at Trader Joe's ($2.99). Apparently Two Buck Chuck is no longer two bucks. But hey, you still have some change to spare.

One hour of parking at downtown city meters by 2013.

OR

A Subway footlong sandwich and chips.*

chicago

Charge: First-degree murder

Hudson suspect charged a day after his arrest

Chicago Tribune

First-degree murder charges were filed Tuesday against Jennifer Hudson's estranged brother-in-law, whom police have targeted for weeks as the prime suspect in the shooting deaths of three family members.

Balfour

Held for more than a month on a parole violation, William Balfour was charged a day after Chicago Police obtained a murder warrant in the deaths of Hudson's mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew, said Cook County state's attorney's office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton. Balfour also was charged with one count of felony home invasion.

Balfour's attorney said his client is insistent about his innocence.

"It is scary as hell; he's charged with terrible crimes that he adamantly contends he's not guilty of," attorney Joshua Kutnick said before the announcement of the charges, which he said he expected. Still, added Kutnick, "He's exhibited to me, at least, the patience to let the process unfold."

Police Superintendent Jody Weis said Tuesday that Balfour has not confessed to the crimes, but he is "confident in the evidence," which both he and Deputy Superintendent Steve Peterson declined to detail.

Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis (left) and key detectives announce charges Tuesday against William Balfour in the murders of three Hudson family members. ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE

The bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Hudson Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, were discovered in their South Side home Oct. 24. Seven-year-old Julian King's body was found in an SUV three days later.

All three had been shot to death. Police believe Julian was killed inside the SUV the same day as the adults, but "the exact timing" has not been determined, Peterson said.

From the beginning, police have said they believed the slayings were "domestic related." But until Monday they identified Balfour—the boy's stepfather and the estranged husband of Jennifer Hudson's older sister, Julia Hudson—only as a "person of interest."

On Tuesday, they reiterated that the slayings were domestic related, but would not elaborate. They would not say, for example, if they believed the boy was part of any dispute between Balfour and Julia Hudson.

In fact, the news conference was noteworthy as much for what wasn't said as what was.

For example, while Peterson said, "There is physical evidence," he stopped short of saying whether that evidence linked Balfour to the crimes. Despite a lack of details, authorities' comments suggested confidence about the case. And they said the Hudson family was "happy" with Balfour's arrest.

"They were relieved and happy that the Chicago Police Department would bring this case to a successful conclusion," Peterson said.

They also said far less than Illinois Prison Review Board Chairman Jorge Montes, who told reporters last month that Balfour's girlfriend or ex-girlfriend told police she saw Balfour with a gun "identical" to the weapon police recovered near the SUV where the boy's body was found—which they have said was the murder weapon.

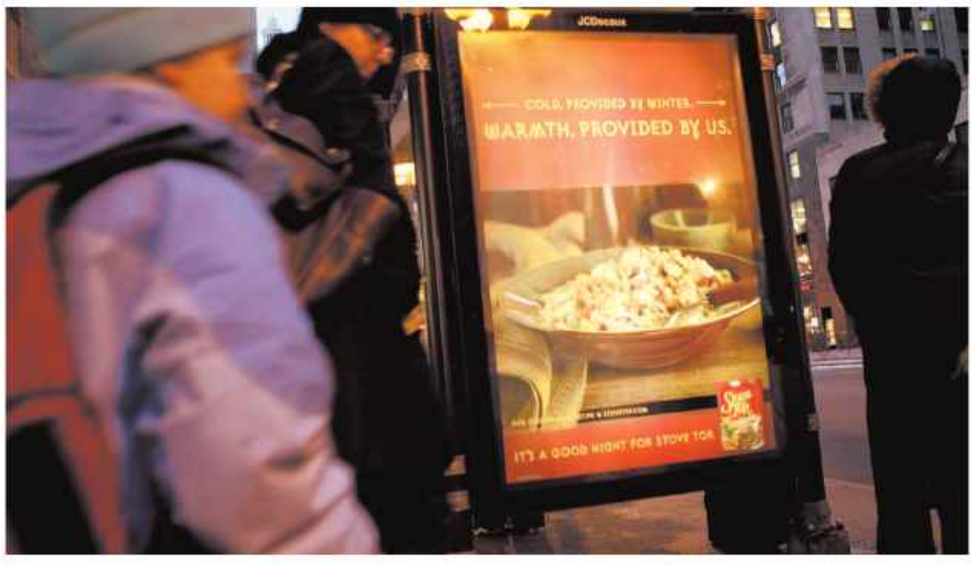
When asked about the woman Tuesday, Peterson said she cooperated with police, but would not say what, if any, information she provided. Nor would he say that detectives have linked the weapon to Balfour.

Peterson did suggest that police are not looking for any other suspects, and that they think Balfour acted alone.

"At this time it doesn't appear that anyone else was involved," he said.

THE BACKGROUND

William Balfour had been in custody since the day the adults' bodies were discovered. But after 48 hours—the longest Chicago police can hold a person without charges—he was taken by the Illinois Department of Corrections on a suspected parole violation. Balfour had served seven years for a 1999 attempted murder and vehicular hijacking conviction, and he was on parole when he was taken into custody.



Kraft Stove Top stuffing ad on CTA bus shelter on Michigan Avenue. SCOTT STRAZZANTE/TRIBUNE

Stuffing: It's not just for dinner anymore

Chicago Tribune

Bus riders, don't get your hopes up. The heat at 10 downtown shelters Tuesday is only temporary and is supposed to make you feel all warm and toasty about stuffing.

"It's perfect for the Stove Top brand," said Kraft marketer Jamie Mattikow about the new ad campaign, which will provide heat at the bus stops through December. Kraft representatives also will occasionally hand out stuffing samples at some sites. The campaign is a form of "experiential marketing" in which the company seeks to associate the product's features with a direct experience—i.e. linking Stove Top with comfort.

If the experiment fails, bus riders will credit the city for the nice blast of heat, said Pradeep Chintagunta, a marketing professor at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. But if it works, he added, the Stove Top brand will be lodged in a consumer's memory.

If it's successful, could we see other companies launch similar campaigns? Maybe bus shelters made of beef jerky from snack-maker Jack Link's? Shellacked, of course, so no sampling the benches.

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FBI stages sting to snare corrupt cops

Duffel bags stuffed with cocaine were delivered by plane to an out-of-the-way suburban airport while two sheriff's officers provided security. A police officer stood by to guard the cash and keep out the riffraff at a high-stakes poker game where $100,000 changed hands.

And a drug dealer was told squad cars marked "sheriff" and "sheriff's police" might be available on a "freelance" basis to provide protection for his deliveries.

Such tales of law enforcement gone awry emerged from court papers Tuesday as federal prosecutors unveiled a series of elaborate sting operations aimed at officers who hired out to ride shotgun for drug deals and other criminal activities.

Fifteen officers and two other men who had pretended to be law enforcement officers were charged with conspiracy to possess large amounts of cocaine or heroin or both.

But the most spectacular pretending was done by the federal agents themselves.

The pilots of the airplane were not drug runners but undercover agents. So were the gamblers who busily played hand after hand of high-stakes poker—all for show.

The drug broker who squired the officers to the airport to pick up the duffel bags was an agent. So was the drug dealer who stuffed the bags in his Mercedes-Benz.

U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald said he was dismayed to find that so many law enforcement officers had "sold out their badge."

Officials also paid homage to an unnamed FBI agent who moved into a business in south suburban Harvey more than a year ago and set up shop as a drug broker. He soon attracted the attention of the police and the corruption grew, authorities said.

They said the agent was sent in under cover because over the last several years there have been reports of police corruption in southern Cook County, including the Harvey police department.

Rep. Kirk says no to Ryan clemency

Rejecting an idea endorsed by two top Democrats, Republican Rep. Mark Kirk sent a letter to the White House on Tuesday asking President Bush not to commute the sentence of former Gov. George Ryan. "George Ryan betrayed the public trust, was convicted beyond the shadow of a doubt by a jury of his peers and lost all of his appeals. His crimes struck at the fabric of our democracy and invited a new wave of public corruption in Illinois," Kirk wrote.

I-290 crash snarls traffic

Traffic was a mess Tuesday afternoon on inbound I-290 after a crash with injuries involving a car and an SUV, Illinois State police said. The crash occurred about 4:30 p.m. near Devon Avenue, police said.

Former Chicago cop guilty

A federal jury Tuesday found a former Chicago police officer guilty of five of six counts after deliberating for two days. Mahmoud "Mike" Shamah was charged with using his police powers while conspiring with former officer Richard Doroniuk to commit robberies. Doroniuk pleaded guilty and testified against his one-time partner. Shamah was convicted of racketeering and four other charges. He was found not guilty of a gun charge.

Reprieve for shelter

The North Side men's emergency homeless shelter slated to close Dec. 1 will remain open for the rest of the month and move to a new location for the first part of 2009, shelter officials said Tuesday. Officials at Epworth United Methodist Church in Edgewater will allow the REST Warming Shelter, which has been inside the church, to stay until the end of the year. The shelter will then be allowed to move a mile west to Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., until May 1.

DIGIT

71

A man who refers to himself as "Otis the town drunk" has been arrested for the 71st time in Porter County, Ind., according to the Northwest Indiana Times. He has spent about half his adult life behind bars.

Let there be Christmas light

From left, Keith Williams, CEO of Underwriters Laboratories, actress Keri Russell, Santa and Mayor Daley officially light the tree Tuesday at Daley Plaza. JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

More snow on the way

Ready or not, more snow is headed for Chicago.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for the area starting at 6 a.m. Wednesday and continuing through 9 p.m. for 2 to 4 inches of snow.

Rain could mix with the snow in the morning, but the precipitation is expected to become all snow before the afternoon rush hour with 1 to 3 inches accumulating by evening, the weather service said.

Another inch is likely Wednesday night, bringing total accumulations in the city to 2 to 4 inches, with 3 to 5 inches possible north and west of Interstate 88.

According to WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling, arctic air is expected to overspread the area behind the storm. Highs on Thursday aren't expected to get out of the teens, and overnight lows could hit zero inland away from Lake Michigan.

Oh, and there's a chance of more snow Saturday. But let's not think about that now.

Investigators turn to relative in Kanye West's mom's death

More than a year after the death of Chicago rapper Kanye West's mother, state officials are conducting an investigation of her nephew, a registered nurse who oversaw her recuperation after her plastic surgery, according to a person with knowledge of the probe.

Stephan Scoggins, a registered nurse with an advanced degree in public health, was in charge of caring for Donda West when she returned home after a 5½-hour operation at a Brentwood-area clinic.

Scoggins declined to comment on the investigation by the California Board of Registered Nursing, which first was reported by **people.com** last week. The board is responsible for regulating and disciplining the state's registered nurses. The source spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

According to a report by the L.A. County coroner, Donda West had arranged for her nephew to take care of her at her home after the operation, even though she had been advised to recover at a postoperative-care facility.

Scoggins and two other caregivers stayed with Donda West on the evening after the Nov. 9, 2007, operation, according to the coroner's report.

Scoggins said that the next morning "West appeared to be doing so well he left for the day, with the intention to return and spend the night with his aunt," according to the coroner's report.

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Obama seeks to assure governors on economy

8 **PHILADELPHIA** President-elect Obama pledged quick work Tuesday on an economic recovery plan to include tax cuts and increased federal spending, and told the nation's governors he wants their advice in designing a package to help their hard-hit states.

"We intend to put tax cuts into the pockets of hard-pressed middle class families in your states. And we intend ... to start making a down payment on the critical investments that are going to be necessary to sustain long-term economic growth as well as pull us out of the current slump," Obama said as he sat down with governors, nearly all of whom are struggling with budget deficits at home as a result of the recession.

Vice President-elect Joe Biden told the same group he hopes they will not criticize the incoming administration for raising the deficit as it tries to help them. "I know none of you would do that," he said jokingly. Many states have constitutions that prohibit deficit spending.

"Forty-one of the states that are represented here are likely to face budget shortfalls this year or next, forcing you to choose between reining in spending and raising taxes," Obama said. "Jobs are being cut. Programs for the needy are at risk. Libraries are being closed. Historic sites are being closed."

The recession and the accompanying increase in joblessness translate into higher health care costs for the poor, greater use of food stamps and added strain on welfare programs, and the governors are seeking help in coping.

President-elect Obama (second from left) speaks Tuesday at the meeting of the National Governors Association in Philadelphia. AP PHOTO

More flight cuts coming

Executives of major U.S. airlines, already seeing signs of slumping travel demand, said Tuesday they were ready to cut more flights, and Delta hinted at more job losses as the carriers jockey to survive the deepening recession.

Plane lands safely

1 A regional airliner with a cracked windshield was diverted to Kansas City, Mo.'s airport and landed safely Tuesday. No injuries were reported.

Bus stabbing probe

2 New York City police are questioning a man in the killing of an on-duty bus driver who was stabbed in front of horrified passengers. No charges have been filed, but a person of interest is being interviewed at a police precinct.

Kmart shooting

3 A Kmart worker was shot and critically wounded at a store loading dock Tuesday morning after he intervened in an argument between a co-worker and her boyfriend, police in Philadelphia said.

Stock market rebound

4 Investors returned cautiously to the stock market Tuesday, wary about the downtrodden economy while trying to recoup some of the ground in the previous session's enormous decline.

Execution stay

5 A federal judge in Topeka, Kan., has issued a stay in what would be the military's first execution since 1961. Former soldier Ronald Gray had been scheduled to die Dec. 10 for a spree of murders and rapes in the 1980s.

Sentence in pot video

6 One of two men videotaped coaxing two toddlers into smoking marijuana pleaded guilty to reduced charges and was sentenced Tuesday in Ft. Worth to up to seven years in prison.

Michael Schumacher

Kelly Layne Lau

7 **Torture charges**

A husband and wife (left) have been charged with torture and other counts after a bruised, terrified 17-year-old showed up at a gym with a chain locked to his ankle, claiming he had just fled his captors, authorities in San Francisco said Tuesday.

Study flunks 49 states in college affordability

WHO PASSED?
Only California received a passing grade in the category, a "C," thanks to its relatively inexpensive community colleges.

An independent report on American higher education flunks all but one state when it comes to affordability—an embarrassing verdict that is unlikely to improve as the economy contracts.

The biennial study by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, which evaluates how well higher education is serving the public, handed out F's for affordability to 49 states, up from 43 two years ago.

The report card uses a range of measurements to give states grades, from A to F, on the performance of their public and private colleges. The affordability grade is based on how much of the average family's income it costs to go to college.

Almost everywhere, that figure is up, according to the survey. Only two states—New York and Tennessee—have made even minimal improvements since 2000, but they're still considered to be failing. Everywhere else, families must fork over a greater percentage of their income to pay for college. In Illinois, the average cost of attending a public four-year college has jumped from 19 percent of the average family's income in 1999-2000 to 35 percent in 2007-2008, and in Pennsylvania, from 29 percent to 41 percent.

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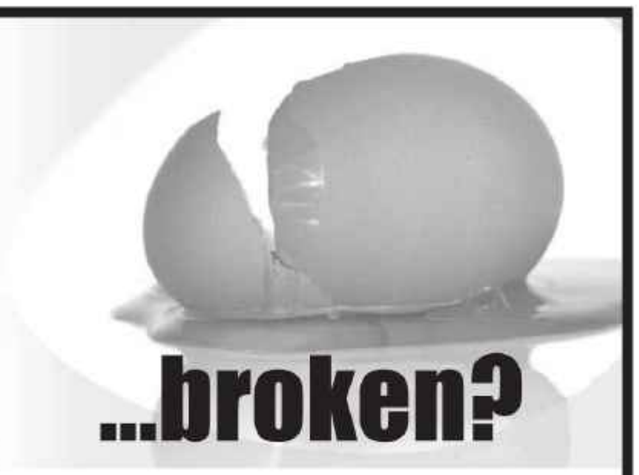

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Current flu vaccines are initially derived from chicken eggs and take time to produce. The reliance on a limited supply of these eggs means that vaccine may not be readily available should a sudden flu outbreak occur.

Local doctors are now evaluating the safety and effectiveness of a novel, investigational flu vaccine that's manufactured without the use of chicken eggs.

Qualified participants will receive study vaccine at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may also be provided.

To pre-qualify for this study, you must:
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- be considered healthy on the day of the vaccine, AND
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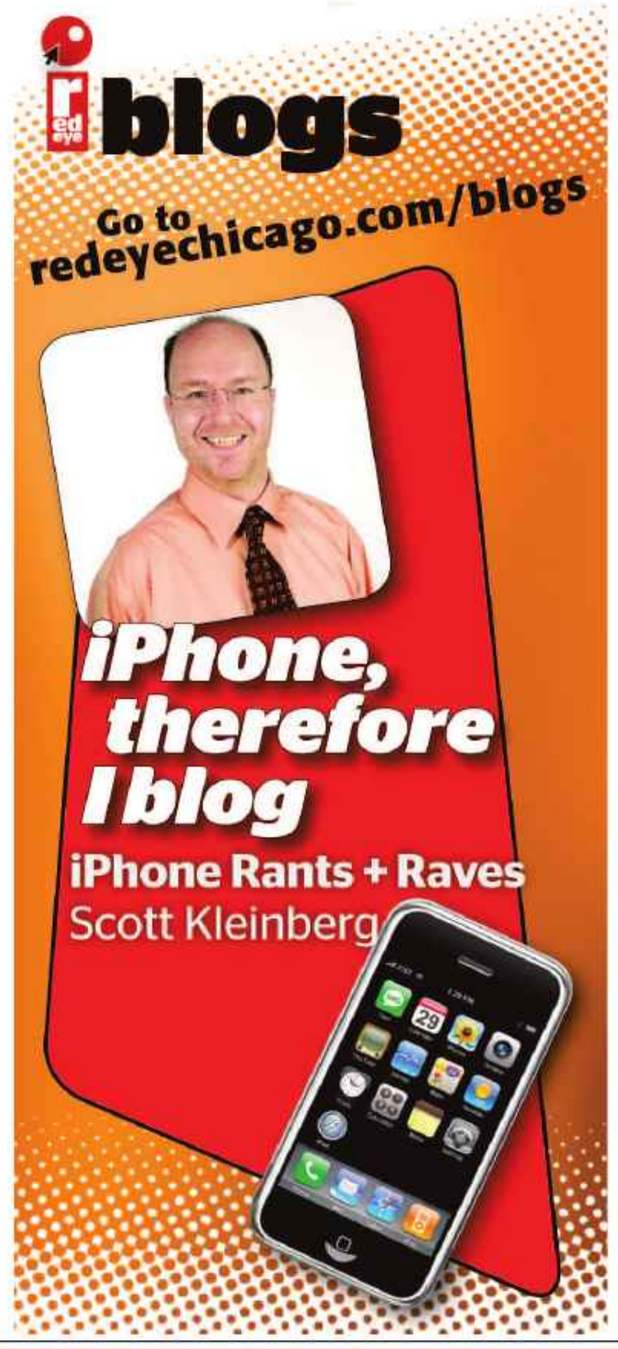

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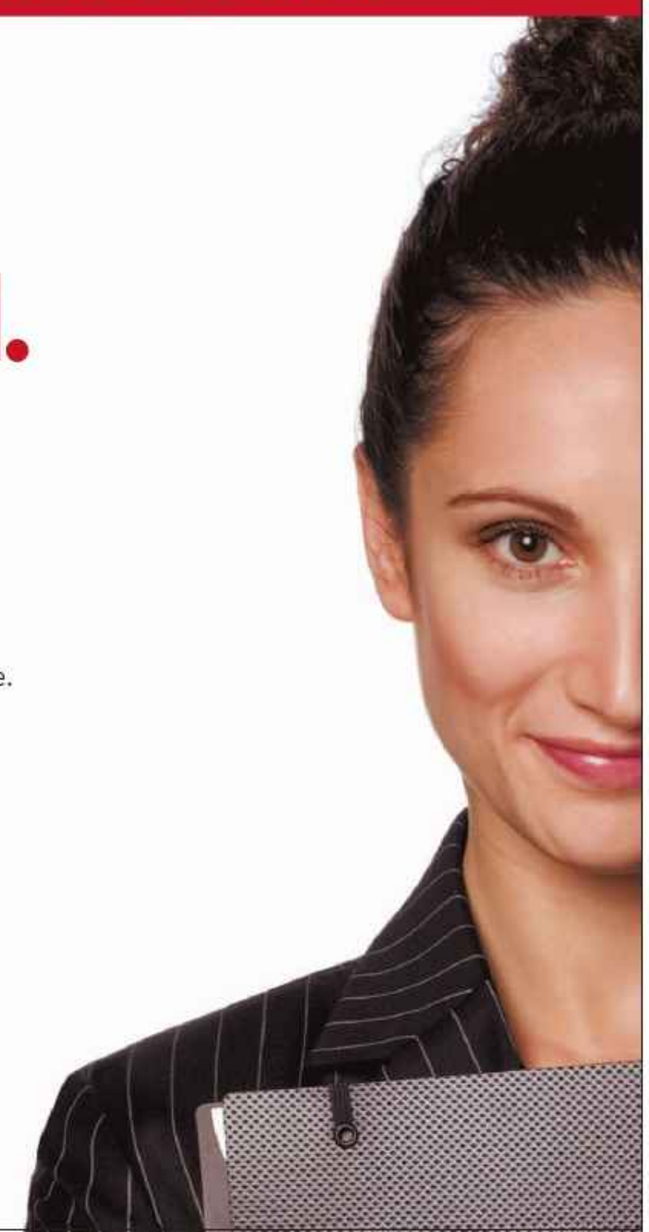


AP FILE

'Chemical Ali' sentenced

1 Saddam Hussein's notorious cousin "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid and former Baath party official Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Ghafur (above) were sentenced to death Tuesday in Baghdad for crushing a Shiite uprising in the wake of Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.

UN concerns in Baghdad

2 The UN expressed concern Tuesday about overcrowding and "grave human rights violations" of detainees in Iraqi custody—in one case, 123 men crammed into a single cell.

Jewelry store robbery

3 Police in Milan say they have arrested nine suspects in the dramatic daytime robbery of a jewelry showroom. Investigators said nine Italian men were picked up in Milan and Sicily in their investigation of the theft in February.

Operation on twins

4 British doctors were conducting surgery to separate twins joined at the chest on Tuesday, hospital officials in London said. Faith and Hope Williams were born last week to Laura and Aled Williams.

More melamine in eggs

5 The Hong Kong government says it has found excessive amounts of the industrial chemical melamine in another batch of eggs from mainland China.

Warship exercises

6 Russian warships have held training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such Caribbean deployment since the Cold War.

Deadly train blast

7 A bomb exploded in a train coach in India's insurgency-hit town of Gauhati on Tuesday, killing at least three and injuring another 29, a state government official said.

Water world

10 **VENICE** Strong southern winds pushed the Adriatic Sea into Venice again Tuesday, submerging parts of the lagoon city a day after an unusually high tide caused the worst flooding in 20 years.

GETTY IMAGES

U.S.: India attack may have Pakistani ties

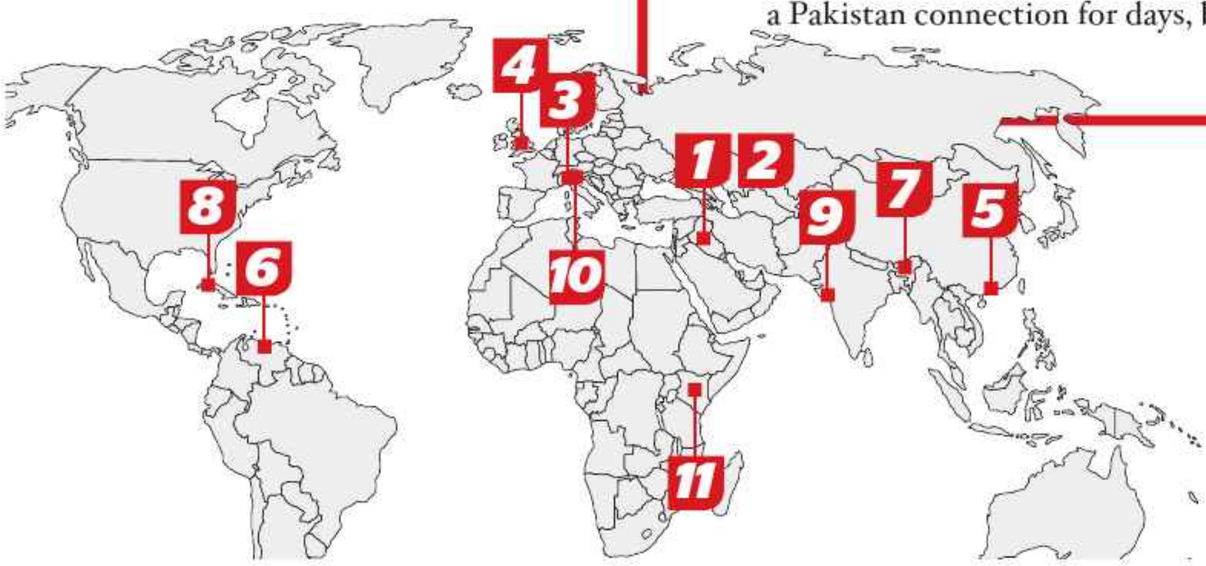
9 **MUMBAI** Evidence suggests that a group partly based in Pakistan carried out last week's attack in India, U.S. officials said Tuesday, also revealing that the U.S. had warned the Indian government beforehand that terrorists appeared to be plotting an assault on Mumbai.

The brutal, prolonged attack on India's financial capital has some roots in Pakistan, a senior State Department official said. That's the closest the U.S. has come to placing blame for the coordinated assaults, although the official was careful to say that not all the evidence is in.

Indian authorities have claimed a Pakistan connection for days, but the U.S. has not wanted to "jump to conclusions," as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday. The administration fears that any misstep amid the extraordinarily high emotions could spark new and possibly deadly tensions between longtime, nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan.

U.S. VISIT

Rice is set to visit India on Wednesday, carrying the U.S. demand that Pakistan cooperate fully in the investigation into the attacks and try to cool cross-border tempers.



Change in Cuba?

8 Barack Obama will be the first American president in nearly 50 years to have a relatively free hand in deciding whether to ease punitive Cold War-era policies toward communist Cuba, and the foreign policy team he announced this week seems predisposed to make it happen.

Pirates fire on U.S. cruise ship in hijack attempt

11 **NAIROBI, Kenya** The luxury American cruise ship teeming with hundreds of tourists just might have been too much for the Somali pirates to resist.

But the bandits, riding in two skiffs and firing rifle shots at the gleaming ship, were outrun in minutes when the captain of M/S Nautica gunned the engine and sped away in the Gulf of Aden, a spokesman for the company said Tuesday.

Still, the implications had the pirates hijacked the ship add a new dimension to the piracy scourge as NATO foreign ministers groped for solutions at a meeting in Brussels and the UN extended an international piracy-fighting mandate for another year.

The potential for massive ransom payments from the families of hundreds of rich tourists on a pleasure cruise may encourage similar attempts, especially following the successful capture in recent weeks of a Ukrainian cargo ship laden with tanks and a Saudi oil tanker.

And the brazen attack also raises questions: What was a cruise ship doing in the pirate-infested waters of the Gulf of Aden? How many such targets are sailing these seas, and how can they be protected?

Even the pirates' motives were in question: They could simply have been testing the defenses of the massive ship, rather than making a real effort to hijack it.

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sports

Childress upset with Bears' hit

Childress

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.

When Bears defensive end Adewale Ogunleye leveled Gus Frerotte with a late hit in the second quarter in Sunday's game, Minnesota's 37-year-old quarterback crumpled to the turf and lay motionless for more than a minute.

Finally, Frerotte rose to his feet and headed to the sideline, but fell to a knee before he got there. He later said he was momentarily knocked out cold by the blow.

As bad as things looked for him then, Vikings receiver Bernard Berrian knew who would be in the huddle the next time the offense took the field.

"I think Gus gets knocked down more times than Adrian Peterson does," Berrian said with a chuckle.

Infuriated by the late hit, Frerotte peeled himself off the Metrodome turf and threw a 99-yard touchdown and scored on a 1-yard sneak in the second quarter to get the Vikings rolling toward a 34-14 victory over the Bears that gave them sole possession of first place in the NFC North.

"Guy hit me right in the back of the head and threw me for a loop," Frerotte said.

There was some speculation that after two poorly thrown fade routes into the end zone fell incomplete, Frerotte may have been embellishing just a tad in hopes of drawing a penalty flag that never came.

"He doesn't have a lot of flop in him," Vikings coach Brad Childress said Monday. "He's not really a very good thespian, I don't think. Nonetheless, when you're taking three steps and the play, as far as you're concerned, is over, you can't hit the quarterback. You can't do that."

Ogunleye could be fined for the hit.

"He is a tough guy and the quarterback position is one of the toughest positions because you can't really defend yourself back there," Childress said Sunday after the game. "You've got to be tough mentally and tough physically and he's both."

Arizona safety Adrian Wilson kneels over Buffalo quarterback Trent Edwards after delivering a concussive hit that drew a $25,000 fine from the NFL.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Quarterback controversy

The NFL is trying to keep QBs from getting hurt, but are they hurting the game in the process?

MCT

It was that noted poet laureate Jack Lambert who, showing his disdain for a rise in rules protecting quarterbacks, growled through his missing front teeth that the NFL ought to go ahead and just put "skirts" on the signal callers.

And it was another faux fashionista who tweaked the Pittsburgh and Hall of Fame linebacker's seminal one-liner from some 30 years ago this past week.

"No offense to women," cracked Minnesota defensive end Ray Edwards, "but men don't wear panties."

Probably the only thing defensive players despise more than quarterbacks are rules protecting quarterbacks. And flags thrown at defensive players for rough play against quarterbacks. And, no doubt, fines levied against defensive players for rough play against quarterbacks.

Fans and media alike have noticed what seems to be a preponderance of roughing-the-passer penalties this season.

It adds to a growing perception that the NFL's purported pretty boys are being overly pampered, skirts and panties notwithstanding.

Last season, 62 roughing-the-passer penalties were called. With 46 such fouls called through 11 rounds of games this season, the NFL is on pace to see 67 flags for roughing the passer.

Longtime NFL scouting guru Gil Brandt has no problem if referees are giving quarterbacks "a little extra consideration" because quarterbacks getting beat up is "not good for the league," Brandt said. "These are the guys that are the king-makers of your franchise. It's not just that they're the face of the franchise, more that they're defenseless.

"There are more opportunities to hit the quarterback than ever before."

Indeed, the NFL has evolved into a glamorous pass-first league, and who are fans paying to see: Tom Brady, before his knee was turned to

txtable

GETTING DEFENSIVE

What do you think, football fans: Is the NFL being too tough on defenses?

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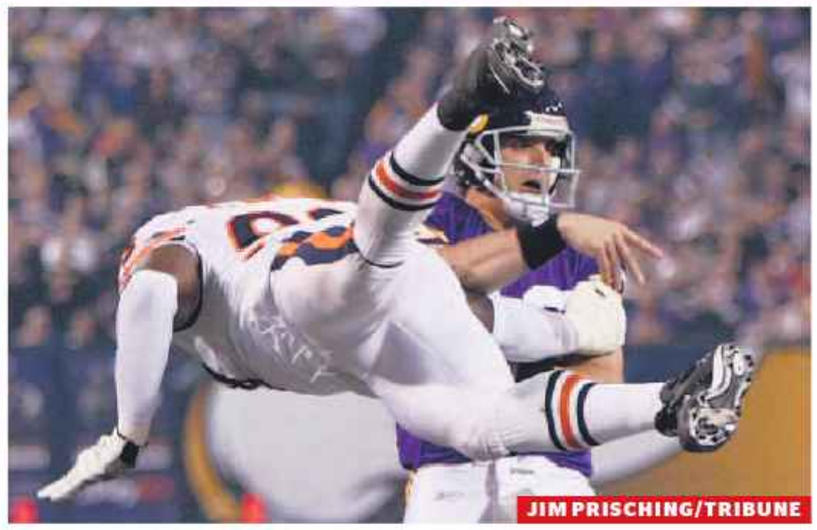

JIM PRISCHING/TRIBUNE

Above: Adewale Ogunleye leaps into the air Sunday to tackle Vikings quarterback Gus Frerotte. **Below:** Tom Brady is helped off the field after suffering a knee injury earlier this season.

MCT FILE

spaghetti in Week 1, or some mouth-breather whose goal on the gridiron is to separate Brady from the ball and/or his head?

Plus, beyond quarterbacks becoming targets more regularly, offenses today stretch the field, often turning the game's most glamorous position into a sitting duck.

So that, Brandt said, is why the league simply is protecting its investment with a rash of rules to shield quarterbacks and punish overzealous defensive players.

Joe Kapp, the former Minnesota Vikings quarterback whose resilience was so legendary he was termed "The Toughest Chicano" by Sports Illustrated, is all for protecting his brethren, even as he's a bit confused by the rules, especially the one that says a quarterback is down when he slides.

"Show me any animal in the world that protects itself by sliding on his back and exposes his [groin]," Kapp said with a disbelieving laugh. "They're very inconsistent with the way they protect [the quarterback].

"The way the game is played right now, he is exposed and they need to protect him. It's these offensive coordinators who never played the ... game. It's like fast-break basketball. Who pays that price? The quarterbacks get their [behinds] kicked and that's bull."

At least one current QB feels for the defense.

"[The NFL] just kind of set a standard they have to stick with and it's almost like an umpire that's calling strikes out of the strike zone; once you start calling it a strike, you've got to [call] it a strike for the other pitcher too," said Buffalo's Trent Edwards, who was on the receiving end of an Adrian Wilson hit so brutal Edwards got a concussion and the Arizona safety got a $25,000 fine.

"Once they've set a precedent, they ... have to keep doing it now," Edwards added. "Unfortunately for defensive players, it's kind of taken them maybe out of their game a little bit."

SIX SIMPLE QB RULES

The NFL's guidelines for "Protection of Passer":

1 By interpretation, a pass begins when the passer with possession of the ball starts to bring his hand forward. If the ball strikes ground after this action has begun, play is ruled an incomplete pass. If passer loses control of ball prior to his bringing his hand forward, play is ruled a fumble.

2 When a passer is holding the ball to pass it forward, any intentional movement forward of his hand starts a forward pass. If a defensive player contacts the passer or the ball after forward movement begins, and the ball leaves the passer's hand, a forward pass is ruled, regardless of where the ball strikes ground or a player.

3 No defensive player may run into a passer of a legal forward pass after the ball has left his hand (15 yards). The referee must determine whether the opponent had a reasonable chance to stop his momentum during an attempt to block the pass or tackle the passer while he still had the ball.

4 No defensive player who has an unrestricted path to the quarterback may hit him flagrantly in the area of the knee(s) or below when approaching in any direction.

5 Officials are to blow the play dead as soon as the quarterback is clearly in the grasp and control of any tackler, and his safety is in jeopardy.

6 No defensive player may hit the quarterback in the head, face or neck.

SOURCE: NFL RECORD & FACT BOOK

Playoff payoffs

dr. fantasy

D.R. SMITH
redeyesports@tribune.com

Does the thought of the fantasy football playoffs make you feel a little queasy or give you the shakes? Well, that's why Dr. Fantasy is prescribing a spoonful of sugar for your playoff ills.

My advice is simple: Don't overmanage your team. By now, you should know who your consistent starters are. Stick with them. Don't rely on a wild card like Ted Ginn Jr. or Devin Hester on a crazy hunch. In a must-win game, it's better to start a guy who is good for six to eight points a game over the player who could get 12 points or zero. And knowing is half the battle.

Cleveland rocks!

Pity poor Cleveland fans. They were stripped of their beloved football team in the '90s only to get a new Browns team that has fallen flatter than Cleveland superfan Drew Carey on "The Price is Right." Until last year, that is.

The Brownies went 10-6 in 2007, just missed the playoffs, and Derek Anderson to Braylon Edwards suddenly looked like the new Bernie Kosar to Webster Slaughter. Fast forward to this year and the Browns are back to being a mess. Edwards has a serious seasonlong case of the dropsies, Anderson looks like a one-hit wonder, Boy Wonder Brady Quinn sparked the team for a few weeks but now he, Anderson and Kellen Winslow are injured and out for the season.

It's a sad tale, but the real question is: What does it mean for fantasy? Easy. Don't play a Brown unless you're desperate. Edwards is worth a look, but with third-stringer Ken Dorsey at QB, don't expect miracles.

Sit for the playoffs

» **Plaxico Burress:** Hopefully he didn't shoot down your fantasy team's hopes of a title.
» **Brandon Jackson:** His stats last week may be tempting, but Ryan Grant's status is still uncertain, making Jackson a question mark.

Start for the playoffs

» **Steven Jackson:** The Rams may stink, but Action Jackson is finally back and productive.
» **Patrick Hillis:** It's hard to trust Mike Shanahan when it comes to running backs, but this Bronco looks solid for now.

D.R. SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

Mouth watch

Our old friend Sarah Spain checks in. See her interviews and stories at Chicago-based Web site **mouthpiecesports.com**.

TOPIC	JEN PATTERSON redeyesports@tribune.com	BRIAN MOORE brmoore@tribune.com	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@tribune.com	DR. FANTASY redeyesports@tribune.com	SARAH SPAIN redeyesports@tribune.com
1 What does Derrick Rose get for being named rookie of the month?	A chance to perform with the Jesse White Tumblers.	A ticket out of the Jalen Rose-Malik Rose club.	Lots and lots of gelt.	Let's not give him a big head yet. Maybe a polite clap and a $10 McDonald's gift card.	Four-and-a-half more months as the only bright spot on an inconsequential team.
2 How should the Bulls approach ex-coach Scott Skiles on Wednesday?	Give him a recording of Pax saying "you're fired!" wrapped in Xmas paper	With a knowing smirk that says, "Bet you wish you had this Derrick Rose guy now, eh?"	With sunglasses to stop the glare from his head. Hey, bald jokes are fun!	Cautiously. He wears this "I might actually murder you if you push me too far" look.	With gifts. A "thank you" card for bringing his losing ways to a division rival should suffice.
3 What is the Big Ten/ACC Challenge?	Is that a reality show?	A cheap way for ESPN to exploit college athletes for their own gain.	When players from Iowa and Duke try to tell the difference between Coke and Pepsi.	It's like MTV's "Real World/ Road Rules Challenge" but with actual talent involved.	For the Big Ten, an annual exercise in futility. Kinda like my New Year's diets.
4 Sunday's Bears game looks like a must-win. Are there any must-wins in your life?	Yeah ... any argument with Mike North.	The race to the office candy jar.	The lottery.	Considering I just lost my day job this week, this Five on Five is a must-win.	Everything from a debate to a game of Scrabble. Do you think I have a problem?
5 The fantasy football playoffs are near. How's your team doing?	I want my $200 back. Thanks, Tom Brady!	I got in after a competitor shot himself in the foot with a Plaxico Burress trade.	I refuse to answer on the grounds I drafted Derek Anderson.	Must you even ask? Dr. Fantasy is in first! Well, umm ... a tie for first.	Team "Forte Oz To Freedom" went the way of its starting QB, Carson Palmer. Fail.

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December is a blessing and a curse.

There is a lot going on in the sports world—and a lot of it is very important. You have NFL playoff positioning, college bowls, college basketball. Unfortunately, there's so much to keep track of, you have to make sacrifices.

That's why I've decided to go the whole month without sleeping.

Here now, my TV picks.

NBA
Bulls at Milwaukee
7 p.m. WGN

This is must-see TV. You might actually get to see Bucks coach Scott Skiles erupt like a volcano.

NHL
Blackhawks vs. Anaheim
7:30 p.m. Comcast SportsNet

It's Steve Larmer night. I wonder when they'll have Whizzer night.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Florida St. at Northwestern
8:30 p.m. ESPN2

More ACC/Big Ten Challenge action. The challenge in this game will be staying awake.

Burress (right) AP

Burress done

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress is done for the year.

The New York Giants fined and suspended Burress on Tuesday for four games—the rest of the regular season—after he accidentally shot himself in the right thigh over the weekend at a Manhattan nightclub. The team also placed him on the reserve non-football injury list, which means the wide receiver couldn't come back for playoffs, either.

The team punished Burress a day after he was charged with illegal weapons possession, which carries a penalty of 3 1/2 to 15 years in prison. He is due back in court on March 31.

Burress arrived at Giants Stadium on Tuesday morning, and met individually with Giants president John Mara, General Manager Jerry Reese and head coach Tom Coughlin. He left for a medical test and returned in the afternoon for another brief session with team officials.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being," Mara said. "This is an important time for him to take care of his body and heal up and also deal with the very serious legal consequences and other issues in his life. When I spoke with Plaxico he expressed great remorse for letting down his teammates."

Neither Burress nor his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, was immediately available for comment.

Dr. Scott Rodeo, a team physician, examined Burress on Tuesday and told the Giants that the gunshot wound would have sidelined the 31-year-old player for 4-to-6 weeks.

NFL SUSPENDS SIX

Six players, including the heart of the Minnesota Vikings' stout defensive line, were suspended by the NFL on Tuesday for violating the league's anti-doping policy. All six were punished for using a diuretic, which can serve as a masking agent for steroids. The suspended players were running back Deuce McAllister and defensive linemen Charles Grant and Will Smith of New Orleans; defensive linemen Kevin and Pat Williams of Minnesota; and long snapper Bryan Pittman of Houston.

HIT AND RUN

Cuthbert

Girlfriend comment sparks suspension

The NHL has suspended Dallas Stars forward Sean Avery indefinitely pending a hearing with commissioner Gary Bettman. The league says the suspension was imposed Tuesday after Avery made "inappropriate public comments, not pertaining to the game." "I'm really happy to be back in Calgary; I love Canada," Avery said Tuesday in Calgary, according to the Toronto Globe & Mail. "I just want to comment on how it's become like a common thing in the NHL for guys to fall in love with my [former girlfriends]." Avery's ex-girlfriend, actress Elisha Cuthbert, is dating Calgary's Dion Phaneuf.

HOMETOWN HITS

Vazquez

The White Sox gained quality youth and erased $23 million from their payroll Tuesday when they agreed tentatively to trade pitcher Javier Vazquez and left-handed reliever Boone Logan to Atlanta. The Sox are expected to receive top catching prospect Tyler Flowers, speedy infielder Brent Lillibridge, Class-A third baseman Jon Gilmore and 20-year-old left-hander Santos Rodriguez, according to a major-league source.

With the offense in a mini-slump, Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville has shuffled lines searching for a boost. Winger Martin Havlat skated with center Dave Bolland and Andrew Ladd in practice Tuesday in Bensenville in preparation for Wednesday night's game against Anaheim at the United Center. Bolland has centered the third line, usually with Ladd and Dustin Byfuglien.

NEXT GAME
vs. Peoria
7 p.m. Wednesday

The inaugural season of the Lingerie Football League will kick off Sept. 4 at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, home of the Chicago Bliss, the league announced Tuesday. The Bliss will face the Miami Caliente in the opening night matchup.

NEXT GAME
at California
9:30 p.m. Wednesday

NEXT GAME
at Vanderbilt
7 p.m. Wednesday

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
- Philadelphia 90, Bulls 86
- Clemson 76, Illinois 74
- No. 7 Notre Dame 102, South Dakota 76
- Loyola 64, William & Mary 61
- Southern Illinois 64, St. Louis 48
- Evansville 89, SIU-Edwardsville 58

Phelps is sportsman of the year

Michael Phelps achieved another unprecedented feat: the first swimmer honored as Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year. Phelps broke Mark Spitz's record with eight gold medals at the Olympics in August and became the winningest Olympian ever with his 14 career victories.

COPS AND JOCKS *Athletes can't seem to stay out of trouble, and we can't seem to look away.*

DUI gets tailback suspended

Connecticut tailback Andre Dixon has been charged with drunken driving and suspended from the team indefinitely. UConn police say an officer pulled Dixon over shortly after 1:30 a.m. Tuesday because Dixon was tailgating her cruiser. He posted a $500 bond and is to appear in Rockville Superior Court on Dec. 15.

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metromix

Party like an animal

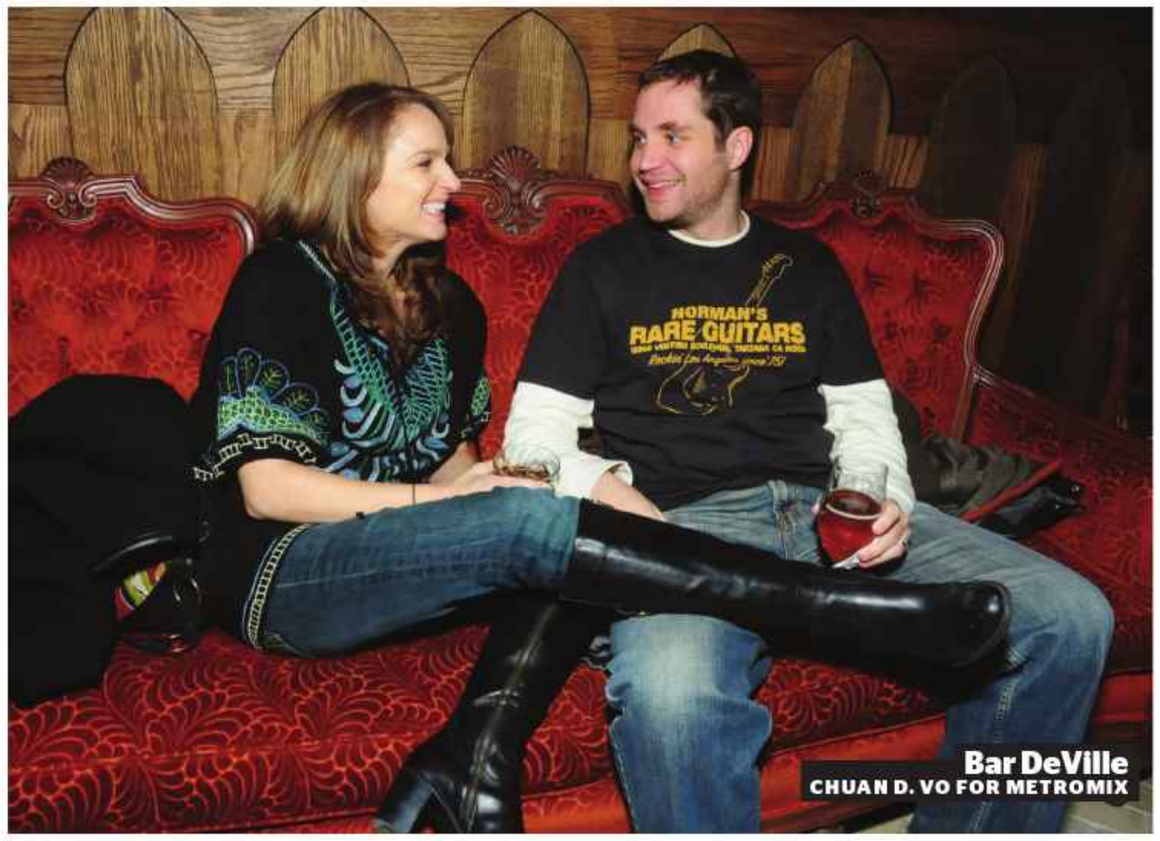
The newest entries in the nightlife scene are on the prowl

By Lisa Arnett

Crocodiles, pugs and shires—oh my! It seems that some of the latest nightlife newbies drew their inspiration from four-legged creatures. Embrace the trend and line up at the trough.

new on the scene

By Lisa Arnett
METROMIX.COM



Bar DeVille
CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX

Crocodile
1540 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Faux croc-covered banquettes and framed art of the namesake reptile decorate this Wicker Park bar in the former Baccala space, aiming to open this weekend if last-minute inspections go as planned.

Bar DeVille
701 N. Damen Ave. 312-929-2349
Matt Eisler (Empire Liquors, Angels & Kings) paired up with local designer Kevin Heisner to transform a Ukie Village dive into this polished corner bar. The Old-World European vibe—check out the chalkboard with a gilded frame and rag-tag antique sofas near the pool table—was inspired by the duo's recent jaunts to Barcelona and Paris. As for cocktails, ask the bartender to whip up a classic-with-a-twist, such as a lavender-tinged pisco sour or the house 'rita with blue agave syrup and orange bitters.

The Shire Public House
3328 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-935-6391
Two attorneys quit their day jobs to buy Tavern 33 and relaunch it as this contemporary pub. "As the name suggests (horse fact: Shires are similar to Clydesdales), beer's the drink of choice." You can still order your Bud or Miller by the bottle, but the dozen-plus taps here are occupied by higher-end American microbrews and imports such as Delirium Tremens, Chimay Tripel, and Dogfish Head's 60 Minute IPA. In '09, look for a limited food menu of sausages courtesy of Paulina Meat Market.

Stay
111 W. Erie St. 312-475-0816
This after-hours lounge may be just upstairs from Manor (and run by the same owners), but don't mistake one for the other. Stay's open only on Tuesdays and Saturdays, doesn't require bottle service for its comfy couch seating and is open two hours later to boot. The bartenders are experimenting with cocktails for a future menu, so be a guinea pig if you'd like. Look for the entrance concealed by worn movie posters.

The Wild Pug
4808 N. Broadway. 773-784-4811
The owners of gay sports bar Crew have doubled their Uptown party presence with this nearby bar. You might need Cliffs Notes to decipher the back story behind the name ("Wild" refers to Irish author Oscar Wilde; "Pug" is both a play on the word "pub" and a nod to the tradition of naming a pub after an animal), but here's all you really need to know: You'll find a fireplace, a beer-stocked bar and plenty of whiskey, plus a dance floor manned by VJs on Wednesdays and DJs on the weekends.

LISA ARNETT IS THE METROMIX NIGHTLIFE AND SHOPPING PRODUCER. LMARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM

The Countdown
KEEPING TABS ON COMING-SOON SPOTS

Bull & Bear
DEC. 12 OR 19
The Stone Lotus guys switch gears with this sprawling, stock market-themed sports bar. 431 N. Wells St.

Theory
LATE DECEMBER
Comfy barstools fit for extended game-watching will tempt at this modern sports-focused lounge in the former Kevin address. 9 W. Hubbard St.

Madpoison Ultra Lounge
LATE DECEMBER/EARLY JANUARY
Pick your poison using a holographic touch screen at this teched-out West Loop "iBar." 806 W. Randolph St.

Fuel Kitchen & Cocktail Lounge
LATE DECEMBER/EARLY JANUARY
"Get your fill" is the catch phrase for this Wicker Park lounge in the former Blend space. 1725 W. Division St.

Simone's Bar
JANUARY
Pilsen residents, get ready to welcome this new neighborhood bar and grill. 960 W. 18th St.

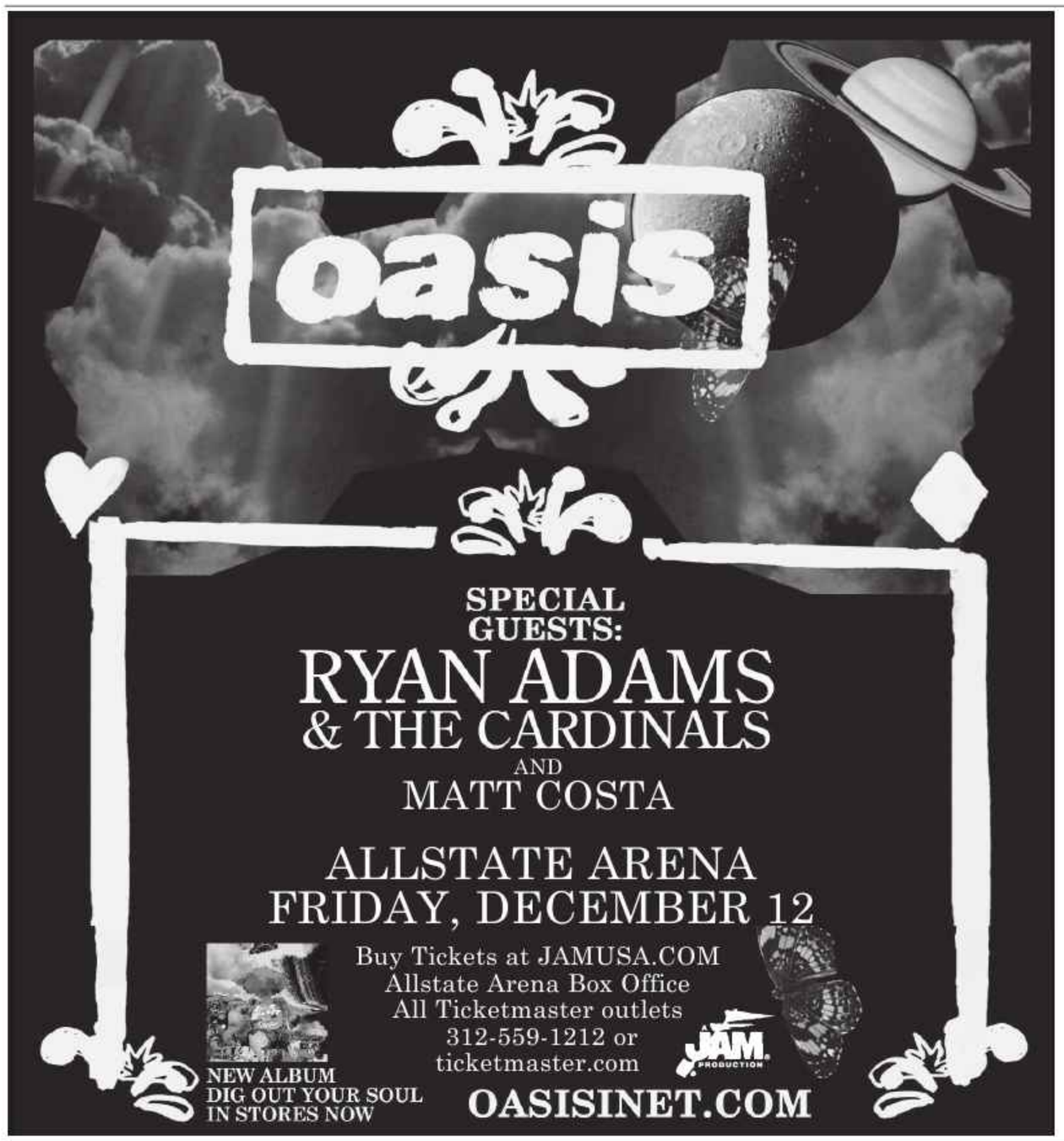
Tilted Kilt
MID-JANUARY
"Hooters with a Celtic twist" best describes this pub chain that originated in Las Vegas. Think Guinness on tap and waitresses clad in super-short mini-kilts and belly-baring blouses. 17 N. Wabash St.

The Rocking Horse
FEBRUARY
This Logan Square bar and grill from the owners of High Dive promises a huge beer list as well as brunch. 2535 N. Milwaukee Ave.

1113 W. Randolph St.
FEBRUARY
This West Loop sports lounge doesn't have a name yet, but trust us: It's gonna be big. Expect a 4,000-square-foot interior, a sidewalk cafe, beer garden and rooftop terrace with cabanas.

Dive into cheap bar deals along Lincoln 25

Why Lauren Frost calls herself a spaz 33



"Silent Night of the Lambs"

best bets

BY REBECCA PALMORE
rkpalmore@tribune.com

wed 3

Lamb chop

Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. 800-838-3006.

Is Christmas fluff going to hell in a handbag? One local theater group says yes. Hell in a Handbag Productions ("The Birds," "Caged Dames") stages the Midwest premiere of "**Silent Night of the Lambs**," a marriage of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and—you guessed it—"Silence of the Lambs," which includes a jolly madman (a.k.a. Santa Claus), a serial killer and an FBI agent descended from Rudolph. Previews start tonight. 7:30 p.m. Through Jan. 3. $10-$15.

Sugar rush

Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. 312-922-2322.

Have a sweet tooth and a big heart? Put 'em to good use at **World of Chocolate**, the annual benefit for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. General admission includes chocoholic-friendly desserts from more than 30 local businesses, such as Eno, Terry's Toffees and Ghirardelli. Extras like live music, an open bar, a light buffet and a holiday bazaar sweeten the deal—as if. 6 p.m. $75-$100. Tickets: **aidschicago.org**

thu 4

Change it up

Gary Comer Youth Center, 7200 S. Ingleside Ave. 773-241-6083.

Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago meditates on change and growth in its 2008 fall concert and gala, "**Transformation**." Works include "N'Dage Mandingo" by Senegalese choreographer Babacar N'Diaye, "Koutero Collage," by folklorist Abdoulaye Camara, and Muntu's take on line dancing with the world premiere of "Mujuboo Rock." 7:30 p.m. Through Sunday. $25-$27.50.

fri 5

Repeal appeal

Kelly's Pub, 949 W. Webster Ave. 773-732-1771.

In most cases, forbidden fruits are the sweetest. Not so with drinking. Friday marks the 75th anniversary of the end of Prohibition, yet we still can pine for a drink like it's 1932. Share the sentiment? Stop by Kelly's Pub for **Whiskey Rebellion**, honoring the date with $2 cocktails and domestic drafts and bottles. 5:30 p.m. $33 suggested donation benefits St. Patrick's AOH Division # 1.

Depart from the mainstream

AV-aerie, 2000 W. Fulton St. Suite 310.

Five years ago, the DIY movement gave birth to DEPART-ment, and the event's similarities to department-store shopping still start and end with a shared organizational style. Browse counters stocked with handmade jewelry, scarves, handbags, wallets and more at the **Holiday DEPART-ment show**. Cash only; an ATM is on site. 7 p.m. Through Sunday. Free. Contact: **depart-ment.com**

WEDNESDAY FREEBIE

Bar none

Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

Seasonal shopping is twice as nice when the destination doubles as a bar. Browse handmade gifts such as jewelry, candles, soaps and photographs from local artists at **Holiday Exotica**, co-hosted by the Chicago Art Brigade. Includes desserts, $4 drafts of Goose Island IPA, plus gift bags for the first 25 guests. 6:30 p.m.

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO **METROMIX.COM**.

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For questions, comments and story ideas, contact Matt McGuire, editor, at **mmcguire@tribune.com**

To submit event information for Metromix or **metromix.com**, go to **metromix.com/listings**.

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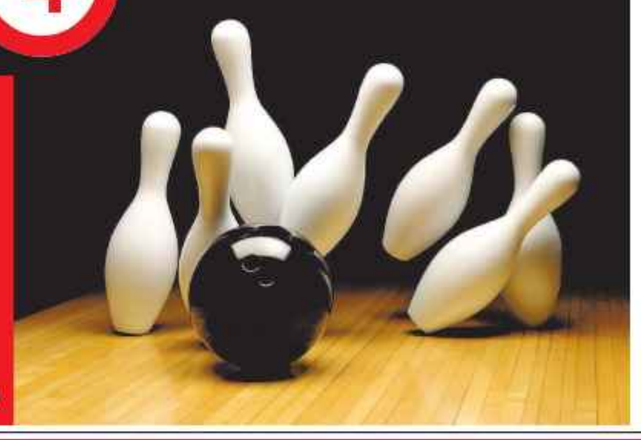

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Give 'em a shot

Trade your Lincoln Avenue standbys for these cheaper hidden gems

By Erin J. Shea

Arguably the North Side's most heavily populated stretch for drinking, Lincoln Avenue draws post-college and wish-I-was-still-post-college bargoers in droves. But if the price of your Saturday night tab is setting you back more than you can muster in these tough times, look to these hidden gems buried among the pricier usuals. If you're willing to downgrade and walk a block or two, there's cash to be saved.

Goldie's
JASON LITTLE FOR METROMIX

Rose's Lounge

2656 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-327-4000

No better sign of an old-school bar than an old-school bartender. At Rose's, that barkeep is Rose herself, the diminutive, feisty proprietor of this DePaul-area watering hole. Be nice and she'll give you a bowl full of pretzels. The most expensive beer served here is two bucks, which leaves you plenty of change for the jukebox.

You've passed it on the way to: The Grand Central (950 W. Wrightwood Ave. 773-832-4000)

Order: $2 Bud or Bud Lights

At Grand Central you'd pay: $3.75

Johnny's Tavern

3425 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-248-3000

You can't just mosey on into Johnny's Tavern. It doesn't work that way, kids. Johnny himself is the lone employee of this dark yet cozy tavern, and you've gotta be buzzed in by the man himself. It'll take you some time to get your drink; again, the 80-plus-year-old Johnny is the only one manning the bar, no matter how busy it gets.

You've passed it on the way to: Fizz Bar & Grill (3220 N Lincoln Ave. 773-348-6088)

Order: $4 old-fashioneds

At Fizz you'd pay: $7.50

Goldie's

3835 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-5322

While the drink prices here are dive-caliber ($1 PBR everyday is the claim to fame), amenities such as top-shelf liquor mean Goldie's is classy enough for a date. After you've ordered your drink of choice, amuse yourself with darts and pool.

You've passed it on the way to: Brownstone Tavern & Grill (3937 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-528-3700)

Order: $3 Blue Moons

At Brownstone you'd pay: $5

Save More Liquors

4060 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-1444

A wood-carved centerpiece behind the bar reading "INDULGE" and Cuervo shots for $3.25 are all you'll need to take the hint here: Get drinking. Pick your seat (there's the bar or ... patio furniture) and throw a few bucks into the jukebox, which has an admirable range of classic country.

You've passed it on the way to: Wild Goose Bar & Grill (4265 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-7112)

Order: $3 vodka tonics

At Wild Goose you'd pay: $5.25

ERIN J. SHEA IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
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$1 cups of chili, $1.50 burgers with fries, $4 Paulaner bottles, $5-$8 martinis, $7 margherita pizzas; 1023 W. Lake St. 312-421-8845.

BETWEEN BOUTIQUE CAFE AND LOUNGE
Half-price martinis, half-price spicy burgers and fries (6 p.m.-midnight); 1324 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-292-0585.

BRIDGET MCNEILL'S
$4.25 Sam Adams Seasonal drafts, $5 Magner drafts, $14 domestic buckets, $16 import buckets; 420 W. Belmont Ave. 773-248-6654.

CANS
8 p.m.: "Top Chef: New York" viewing party. Watch the Bravo culinary show in the bar's back room. The party kicks off at 8 p.m. with a replay of the previous week's episode. Specials include $2 off big cans and $1 sliders. No cover; 1640 N. Damen Ave. 773-227-2277.

THE CENTRAL
$1 Miller Lite bottles, $3 flatbreads; 3466 N. Clark St. 773-880-2222.

CINNERS
$2 Schlitz cans, music trivia night 8 p.m.; 4757 N. Talman Ave. 773-654-1624.

COOBAH
Half-price bottles of wine, Bossa Saravah plays bossa nova 7:30-11 p.m.; 3423 N. Southport Ave. 773-528-2220.

D.O.C. WINE BAR
7 p.m.: Girls' Night Out. Sip $8 flutes of Graham Beck sparkling rose champagne and relax with a complimentary manicure or massage from Sheque Chicago. Spa services are on a first-come, first-served basis. No cover; 2602 N. Clark St. 773-883-5101.

THE DUGOUT SPORTS BAR & GRILL
$2 Heineken and Corona cans, $3 cocktails; 950 W. Addison St. 773-281-4213.

EVIL OLIVE
Simply Soul Wednesdays. $6 20-ounce Stella bombs, DJs spin. $5; 1551 W. Division St. 773-235-9100.

EXIT
$3 Miller High Life cans, $4 Jack Daniel's cocktails, DJ Andrew Vonn and friends spin rock and hair metal; 1315 W. North Ave. 773-395-2700.

THE FLAT IRON
$5 for a house shot and a select beer, $5 select cocktails; 1565 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-365-9000.

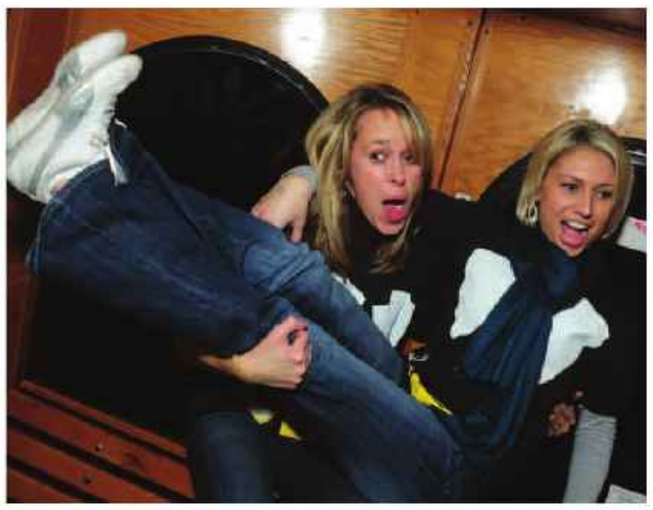
THE GLOBE PUB
$3 well drinks, $7 chicken curry, $10 Bud product buckets, acoustic open mic 9 p.m.; 1934 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-871-3757.

THE GRAND CENTRAL
$2 sangrias, 312 drafts and Bud bottles and drafts, half-price sandwiches; 950 W.

NIGHTCRAWLERS

Thirsty and thankful

Pilgrims sure know how to party. Revelers who joined in Metromix's Black Wednesday Pilgrimmage on Nov. 26 met at **Lotties** (1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738) to don matching hats and shirts before hopping on trolleys to celebrate at The Pony, The Boundary, Soiree and others. The last stop of the night? Back to Lotties for a fitting feast of turkey legs. Check out more Pilgrimmage pics at **metromix.com**.



CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX

Wrightwood Ave. 773-832-4000.

HAWKEYE'S BAR AND GRILL CHICAGO
Half-price pizzas (3 p.m.), $4.25 Smithwick's drafts, $13 Bud and Bud Light buckets; 1458 W. Taylor St. 312-226-3951.

HOGS & HONEYS
$3 you-call-its, $5 bombs; 901 W. Weed St. 312-804-1459.

HYDRATE
$4 Stoli cocktails, Stoli bombs and Corona bottles, Hy-Drag Revue 10 p.m. No cover; 3458 N. Halsted St. 773-975-9244.

KINCADE'S
$1 domestic bottles, $5 select bombs, karaoke 9 p.m.; 950 W. Armitage Ave. 773-348-0010.

MATISSE
$4 chocolate martinis, half-price glasses and bottles of wine; 674 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-528-6670.

MULLEN'S BAR AND GRILL
25 cent wings, $2 Miller and Bud bottles; 7301 N. Western Ave. 773-465-2113.

OLE LOUNGE
Half-price select tapas 5-7 p.m.; 2812 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-388-3500.

THE ORBIT ROOM
$3 well cocktails, $7 el cubano sandwiches; 2959 N. California Ave. 773-588-8540.

PIECE
$4 well drinks; 1927 W. North Ave. 773-772-4422.

RAW BAR
Half-price bottles of wine; 3720 N. Clark St. 773-348-7291.

RED IVY
$3.50 Heineken, Heineken Light and Amstel Light bottles, $5 individual one-topping pizzas; 3525 N. Clark St. 773-472-0900.

SEDGWICK'S BAR & GRILL
$1 mini-burgers, $1.50 mini-cheeseburgers, $4 microbrews, $10 Pearl Pomegranate and lemonade mini-pitchers, baggo tourneys 8 p.m.; 1935 N. Sedgwick St. 312-337-7900.

SHEFFIELD'S
7 p.m.: RUI—Reading Under the Influence. Features readings of both published and original selections from regular performers, as well as guest readers. Includes drink specials, trivia and giveaways. $3. More info: **readingundertheinfluence.com**; 3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989.

SULLY'S HOUSE TAP ROOM AND GRILL
Wii Wednesdays. Half-price cheese or single-topping pizzas; 1501 N. Dayton St. 312-929-2779.

TOONS BAR AND GRILL
$3 drafts and pineapple vodka shots, $4 burgers; 3857 N. Southport Ave. 773-935-1919.

TWISTED SPOKE
$3 Jim Beam cocktails and grab bag beer bottles, half-price whiskey cocktails; 501 N. Ogden Ave. 312-666-1500.

VICTORY LIQUORS
$1 Miller Lite bottles, half-price burgers, karaoke 9 p.m.; 2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.

VOLO RESTAURANT-WINE BAR
$1 off flights, $10 featured flight; 2008 W Roscoe St. 773-348-4600.

WICKER WELL
$1 PBR cans, $2 Tecate cans or Miller Lite pints, $5 Jack, Crown Royal or Jameson and Coke cocktails, DJs spin techno 10 p.m.; 1637 W. North Ave. 773-276-8477.

ZELLA
$4 glasses of house wine, $10 Bud, Bud Light and Bud Select buckets, $14 Land Shark buckets; 1983 N. Clybourn Ave. 773-549-2910.

Random Acts of Greatness

5 things we're loving this week

1 The melted Spanish blue cheese fondue with smoked onions ($7) at newish West Loop spot **Province** (161 N. Jefferson St. 312-669-9900).

2 Black pepper in a cocktail? You bet. The strawberry-citrus **Aphrodite cocktail** ($11) at La Madia (59 W. Grand Ave. 312-329-0400) is surprisingly warming thanks to a dusting of cracked black pepper.

3 The selection of **toasty hats and fair-trade wool scarves** at new North Center accessory shop Embellish (4161 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-4400).

The Publican
FILE FOR METROMIX

4 A cold meat pie wasn't the sort of homey food we had in mind when arriving at The Publican (837 W. Fulton Market. 312-733-9555) over the chilly Thanksgiving weekend, but we tried the **Pork Pie** ($15) at the urging of executive chef Paul Kahan and were hooked at first bite.

5 The **cozy corner fireplace** at The Grafton (4530 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-271-9000). Thanks to plenty of couch space, we even managed to score a fireside spot on a Friday night. Log onto **metromix.com** to check out more fireplace bars.

Join the randomness!
What are you loving this week? Log onto **metromix.com** to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

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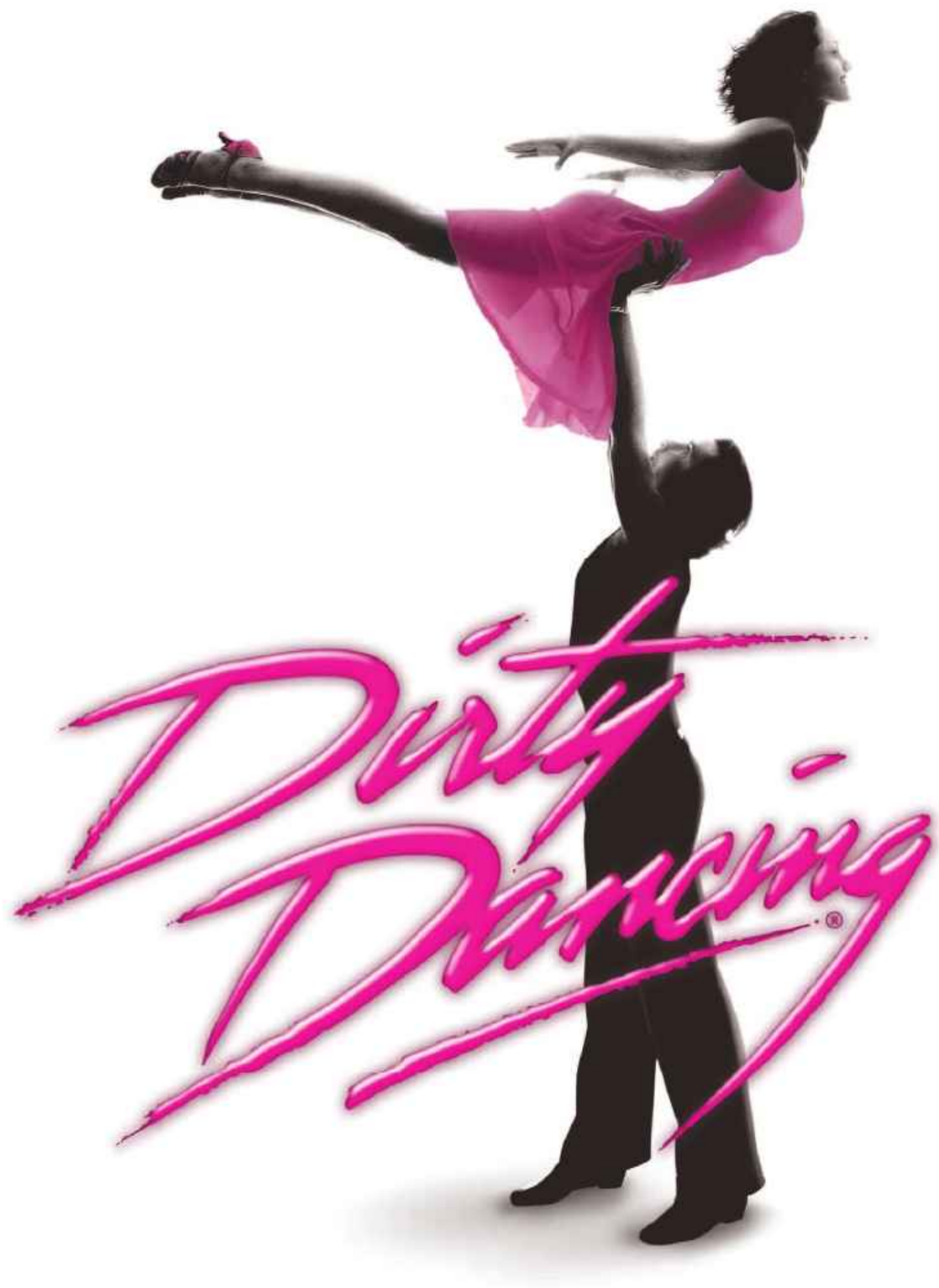

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5. **Spare Parts $80**
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6. **Pastoral Artisan Cheese, Bread & Wine $79.99**
   2945 N Broadway | www.pastoralartisan.com
   The Artisan Brewmaster Cheese and Beer Collection
7. **vFish $78**
   2937 N Clark | www.vfishdesigns.com
   The Sleeveless Sharon
8. **Sage, Jewelry & Accessory Boutique $75**
   3127 N Broadway
   Flirty wool blend jacket by RYU
9. **Kreative Soul $75**
   3744 N Broadway | www.kreativesoulbypilar.com
   Amber Necklace by designer Pilar Audain-Reed
10. **Skinstinct $70**
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11. **Universal Gear $68.50**
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    3306 N Halsted | www.theleighgallery.com
    Raku Vase by Becky Griffin
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    3162 N Broadway | www.hisstuffchicago.com
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16. **Pure Med Spa $50**
    3037 N Clark | www.puremedspa.com
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17. **Binny's Beverage Depot $49.99**
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18. **Timeline Theatre $43**
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For parking, maps and neighborhood information visit
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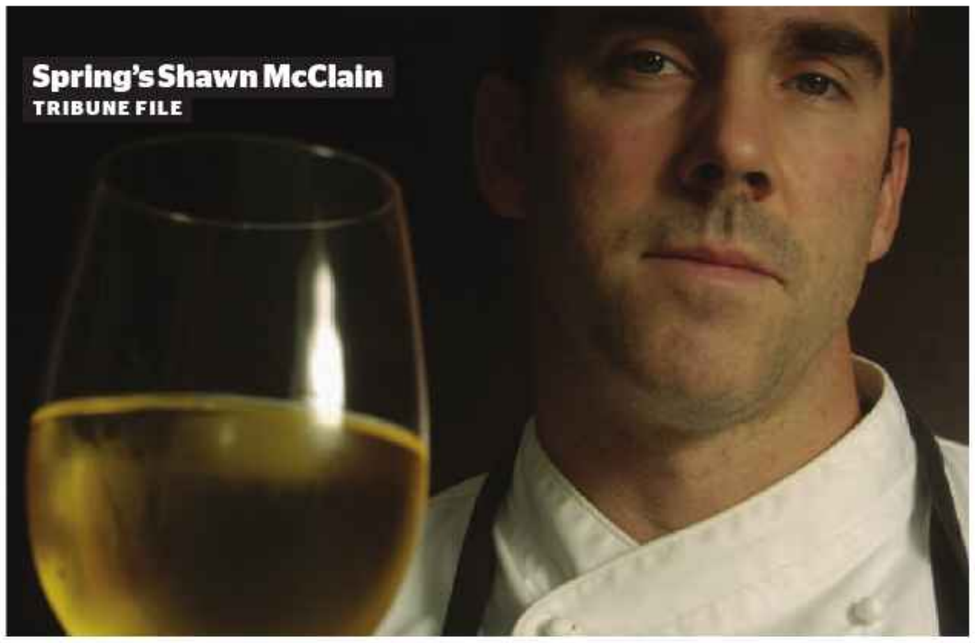
Metromix's top dining picks


Spring's Shawn McClain
TRIBUNE FILE

FOODLIFE
Find release from the workweek at the aptly named **Wine Down**, where $15 gets you samples of 20 wines from around the world. Includes snacks. 6 p.m. Friday. 835 N. Michigan Ave. 312-335-3663.

SPRING
Celebrate 7 years of success for Shawn McClain's Wicker Park spot with a **$45 four-course menu** featuring the best of restaurant's menu from the last seven years. On Friday, toast the 75th anniversary of the end of Prohibition with specially priced cocktails in the bar. Daily (except Mondays) through December. 2039 W. North Ave. 773-395-7100.

WEBSTER'S WINE BAR
Join sommelier Jeremy Quinn and Israeli Wine Direct founder Richard Shaffer for **Wines of the Levant**, a tasting of 15 to 20 wines from Lebanon and Israel. Includes appetizers. $35. Reservations required. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. 1480 W. Webster Ave. 773-868-0608.

ADOBO GRILL WICKER PARK
Wed.-Thu., Sun.: $20 for three tacos, a margarita, churros and hot chocolate; 2005 W. Division St. 773-252-9990.

BETWEEN BOUTIQUE CAFE AND LOUNGE
9 p.m. Wed.: "Top Chef: New York" Viewing Party. Watch Between chef Radhika Desai compete on the Bravo reality TV show while dining on a tasting menu of her favorite dishes with wine pairings. $50. Reservations recommended; 1324 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-292-0585.

BROADWAY CELLARS
9 p.m. Wed.: "Top Chef: New York" Viewing Party. Watch the show while sipping $5 martinis. Draw a contestant's name, and if he or she is eliminated, you dine free; Thu.: $23 three-course menu. Get wine pairings for $7 more; 5900 N. Broadway. 773-944-1208.

C-HOUSE
Wed.-Fri.: $16 two-course lunch with chef's choice candy bar selection; 166 E. Superior St., Affinia Chicago hotel. 312-523-0923.

CAFE SELMARIE
Wed.: Half-price bottles of wine; 8 a.m. Sat.: StollenFest. A celebration of the traditional German holiday treat includes samples, trivia and a raffle; 4729 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-989-5595.

DUNLAY'S ON CLARK
Wed.: $5 burgers; 2600 N. Clark St. 773-883-6000.

FRASCA PIZZERIA AND WINE BAR
Wed.: Two-for-one pizzas; 3358 N. Paulina St. 773-248-5222.

LA MADIA
Wed.-Sun.: $5 select glasses of wine; 7 p.m. Wed.: Chef's Table. Watch chef/owner Jonathan Fox and his staff prepare winter truffle pizza, braised short ribs and diver sea scallops, then sample their cooking with wine pairings during this monthly event. $55. Reservations required; 59 W. Grand Ave. 312-329-0400.

A MANO
5 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: $5 pizzas in the bar and lounge; Wed.-Sun.: $58 three-course dinner for two; Sun.: Half-price bottles of wine; 335 N. Dearborn St. 312-629-3500.

PALMER HOUSE HILTON
2:30 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: Afternoon Tea at the Palmer House Hilton. Features a traditional service throughout the holiday season. Includes finger sandwiches, pastries and assorted scones. $30. Add a glass of champagne for $10 more. $22 for kids under 12. Reservations recommended; 17 E. Monroe St. 312-917-3404.

THE RESTAURANT CHAISE LOUNGE
Thu.: $10 for two crabcakes and two glasses of chardonnay; 1840 W. North Ave. 773-342-1840.

SOLA
Wed.: $30 three-course prix-fixe menu; 5 p.m. Thu.: $6-$10 featured beers, $7 bacon-infused desserts, $18 Kobe beef burgers; 3868 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-327-3868.

SOUTH LOOP WINE CELLAR
6:30 p.m. Fri.: Wine Tasting. A weekly sampling of four wines with snacks. $5; 1442 S. Michigan Ave. 312-356-0630.

TRU
9 a.m. Sat.: Hart Davis Hart Wine Co. Auction. Bid on 1,064 lots featuring fine and rare bottles. Lunch is available for $75; 676 N. St. Clair St. 312-482-9996.

WAVE
2:30-6:30 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: $30 Afternoon Tea. Two menus include five savory small bites, sweets with Devonshire cream, lemon curd and jam, and hot or iced tea; 2:30 p.m. Sat.: The Global Kitchen Silk Road Cooking Classes. Monthly cooking demo showcases fare from around the world. Includes cocktails and lunch with wine, plus a gift bag with recipes. $45; 644 N. Lake Shore Drive. 312-255-4460.

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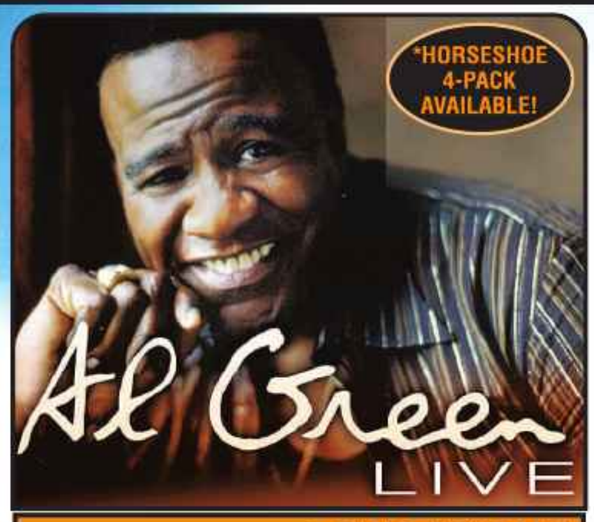

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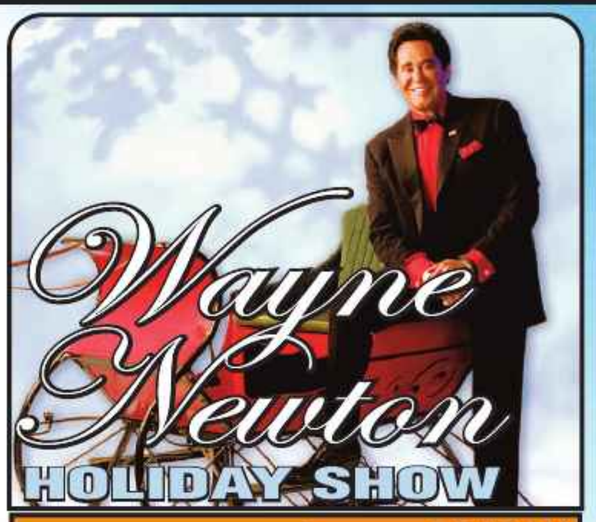
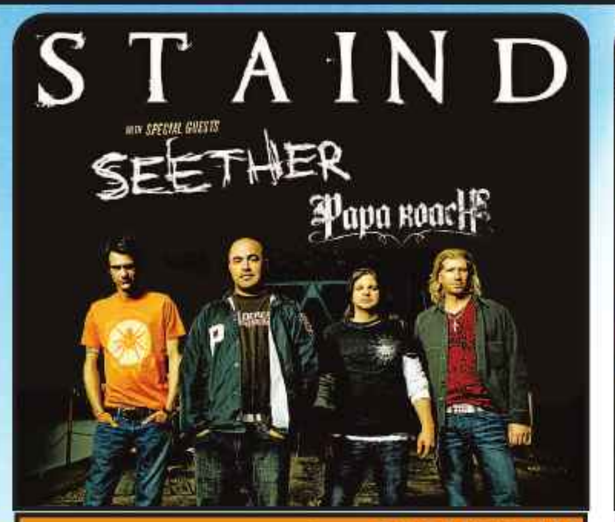
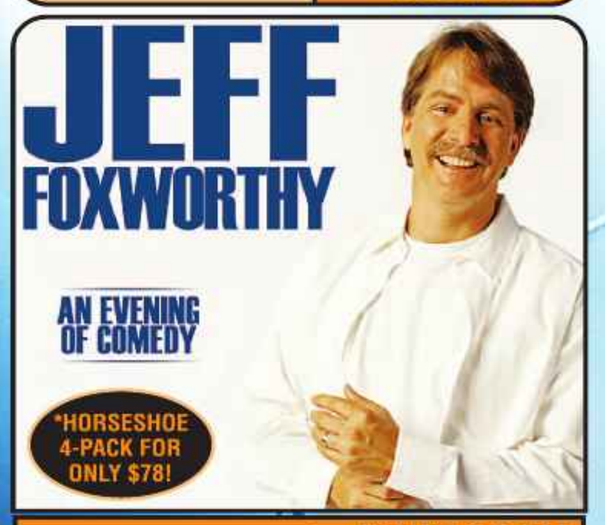


TICKETS ON SALE NOW! FRIDAY DEC 5

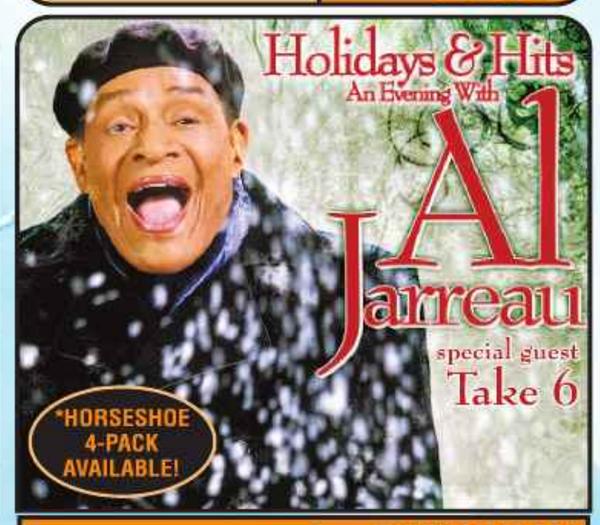


TICKETS ON SALE NOW! SATURDAY DEC 6

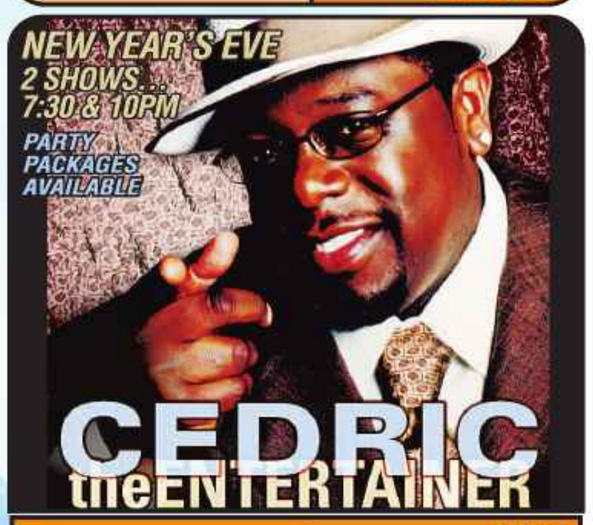
TICKETS ON SALE NOW! SUNDAY DEC 7



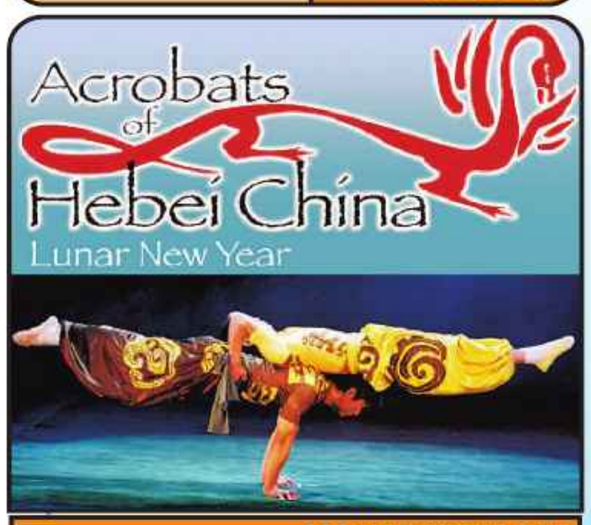
TICKETS ON SALE NOW! THURSDAY DEC 11



TICKETS ON SALE NOW! SATURDAY DEC 13

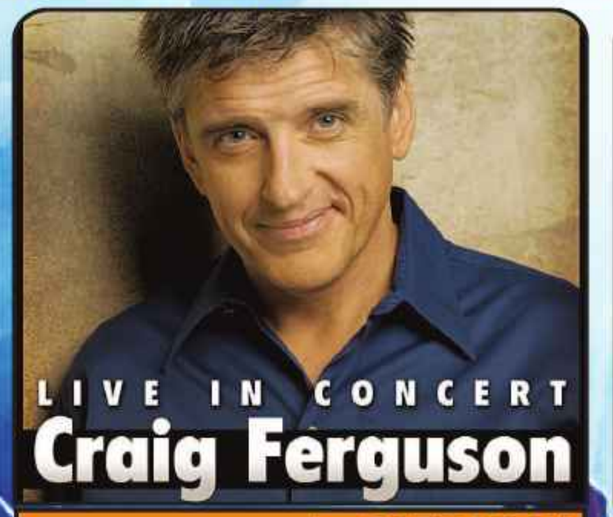


TICKETS ON SALE NOW! NYE DEC 31



TICKETS ON SALE NOW! LUNAR NEW YEAR JAN 26

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! FRIDAY JAN 30



TICKETS ON SALE NOW! SATURDAY MARCH 7

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MORE

Lauren Frost: 'She's a spaz'

Hey, the singer-songwriter-actress said it, not us

local focus

Lauren Frost
When: 9 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7, 14 and 28, and Monday, Dec. 22
Where: Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: Dec. 7, free; Dec. 14-28, $5

By Matt Pais

In terms of edginess, Chicago singer-songwriter Lauren Frost isn't exactly Amy Winehouse. Hell, Frost's bio—which includes co-starring on Disney's "Even Stevens" and touring and singing with Barbra Streisand—makes Mandy Moore look like a badass.

But wait. What about "Wait and See," the first track off of Frost's soothing full-length debut, "Words for the Birds"? It's an upbeat soul tune that Macy Gray would be lucky to cover. Or the cool, Nikka Costa-esque funkiness of "Heavy in Your Shoes" and Corinne Bailey Rae-style glide of "Take it Slow"? Or the fact that, thanks to working together on "Even Stevens," she totally knows "Eagle Eye" star Shia LaBeouf? Now who's square?

In advance of her album release show at Double Door, which also kicks off a monthlong residency, we met up with the 23-year-old Downers Grove native (and current Ukrainian Village resident) to talk about her brand of "white girl" funk and why both she and LaBeouf are huge dorks.

For a low-key pop record, "Words for the Birds" starts out pretty funky.
I can be funky, I think. *[Laughs]* In my own little white-girl way.

How is that different from the usual funk?
I just try to make music that I think suits my voice. People have said that I have a soulful voice, but I think that really just comes from the music that I grew up listening to. But I don't by any means want to go overboard and do a James Brown song, because that's a little ridiculous for someone like me.

How does your stage presence compare to James Brown?
Seriously? *[Laughs]* ... I don't think I'm anything like James Brown, to be perfectly honest. I guess I have these awkward dance moves that I don't even realize I'm doing. My drummer says he watches me because I march and it helps him know my rhythm. Or sometimes I do a shimmy or whatever and I don't even know I'm doing it. And all my friends make fun of me. I've got a little funk in me, but it's not to a James Brown degree.

What can people learn from these unconscious shimmies?
I guess just don't be afraid to be a dork because I sure am [a dork].

But you've shared the screen with Shia LaBeouf!
Yeah, but he's a dork. Shia was like a goofy, awkward kid who was just sort of a pain in the ass. I mean, I love the guy.

Pain in the ass how?
He was just a little turd. He was a little pubescent boy. Aren't they all [a pain in the ass]? He was just a little monster. But an amazingly talented actor. And he's super-hot now. And very successful.

Was there ever anything between you and him?
Oh, God no. Shia's a good buddy. Like I said, he was a little 14-year-old nerd.

I think the word you used was "turd."
We were all kids. So we'd all have a crush on each other each week. And Shia was funny about it. 'Cause he'd come up to me or Margo [Harshman] and be like, "Um, I like you this week." "OK, cool, thanks for the warning. Good to know."

And nothing more happened?
No, there's probably more punching and tripping and little-boy stuff. ... He was pretty cruel to me. He made fun of me a lot.

That means he liked you.
Well, maybe that was a good week. Maybe he had a secret burning love for me, 'cause he was pretty good at making fun of me.

You've done a lot of music, acting and acting in musicals. What would a musical about your life be like?
That'd be a really short musical because I'm not very old. It'd be like, [singing] "I'm born! And now I made a record. The end."

What would the musical be called?
"Lauren Frost: She's a Spaz."

If only all biopics were that honest.
I am a spaz. My parents remind me of that all the time. I was a weird kid.

"Lauren Frost: She's a Spaz," in the tradition of "Ray Charles: He's a Drug Addict."
No! I love Ray Charles. Although he was a drug addict.

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Best date spot: Green Mill (4802 N. Broadway)
Best pizza: Pizza Metro (1707 W. Division St.)
Fave movie filmed here: "Adventures in Babysitting"
Fave sports team: Sox
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Metromix's top shows

Manchester Orchestra

AMANDA PALMER
Dresden Doll continues to support her intense solo debut, "Who Killed Amanda Palmer." With The Builders and the Butchers, Joe Keating.
7:30 p.m. $22.50. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA
Indie rockers are neither an orchestra nor are they from Manchester. Who cares? With Dead Confederate, Kevin Devine, All Get Out.
7 p.m. $11-$13. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. **housecallent.com**

JEREMY ENIGK
Former Sunny Day Real Estate leader shows no signs of slowing down. With Matthew Kerstein, Bob Nanna.
8 p.m. $15. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

AFROFOLK: AFROMOTIVE
8:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

ALFONSO PONTICELLI AND SWING GITAN
9 p.m. $25-$30. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

BIG JOHN BATES AND THE VOODOO DOLLZ, THE BELMONT BURLESQUE REVUE
9 p.m. $6-$8. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

BILL PORTER ORCHESTRA
9:30 p.m. $10. Green Dolphin Street, 2200 N. Ashland Ave. 773-395-0066.

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

FRANK CATALANO SEPTET
2 a.m. Free. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

THE GAY BLADES, YOUNG COYOTES, COLIN BRADFORD
9 p.m. $10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

J.W. WILLIAMS BLUES BAND WITH PATRICIA SCOTT
9 p.m. $8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

JASON ADASIEWICZ, JOSH ABRAMS, JOHN HERNDON, REMPIS/KESSLER DUO
9:30 p.m. $6. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

JIGSAW
9 p.m. Free. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

JIMMY BURNS, ANDRE TAYLOR AND THE BLUES ALLEY CATS
9:30 p.m. $12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

MARQUES CARROLL TRIO
9 p.m. $8. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

MIKE MANGIONE, THE INNOCENT
8 p.m. $8. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

MIKE SMITH QUARTET
9 p.m. $10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

MODERN CONVERSATION, CALLING CORNERS, THE DYES, THE BLAMERS
8:30 p.m. $8. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

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INTO THE LIGHT CAROL ANNE, NED BROWN
8 p.m. Cover varies. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

RAUL MALO
9 p.m. $20. Joe's, 940 W. Weed St. 312-559-1212.

SETH BRADLEY
7 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

THE SOMERSAULT FACTORY, KATIE AND PAT, ANNAH HOUK
9 p.m. Free. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.

STEVE HOWE, CHRIS SQUIRE AND ALAN WHITE OF YES
8 p.m. $35-$95. The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. 312-559-1212.

STRAIGHT NO CHASER
8 p.m. $20. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

SWEET HOME CHICAGO MARATHON
9:30 p.m. $7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

SWEETWATER MELTDOWN
9 p.m. Free. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

TAQWACORE: A SHOWCASE OF YOUNG MUSLIM MUSICIANS. AL THAWRA, RIZ MC, ALL NATURAL, OMAR MAJEED
6 p.m. $8. Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, 1419 W. Blackhawk St. 708-860-6054.

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9:30 p.m. $8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

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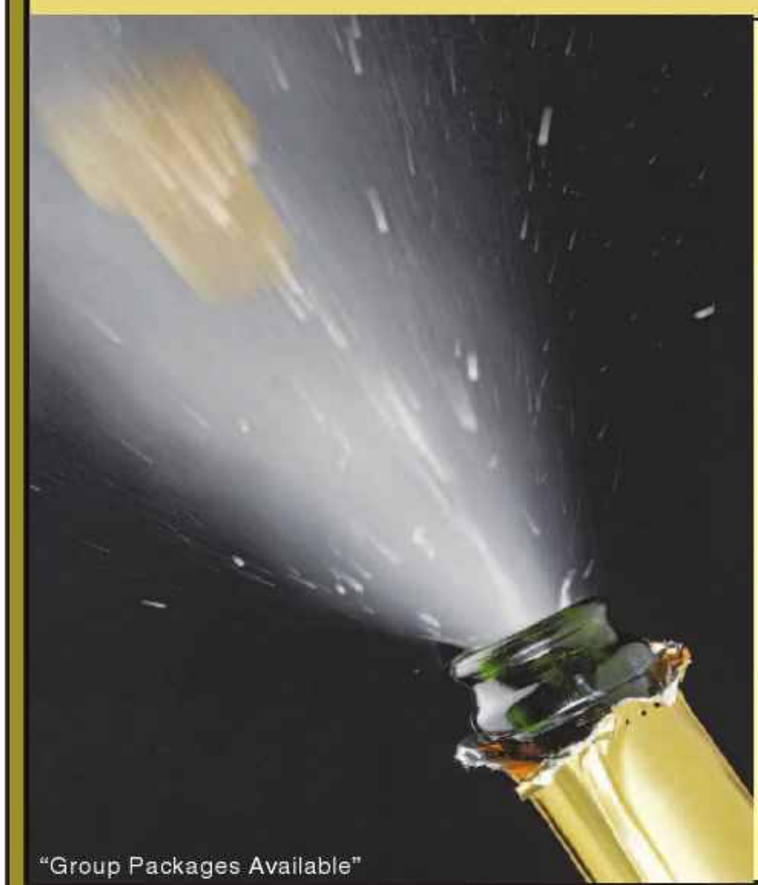
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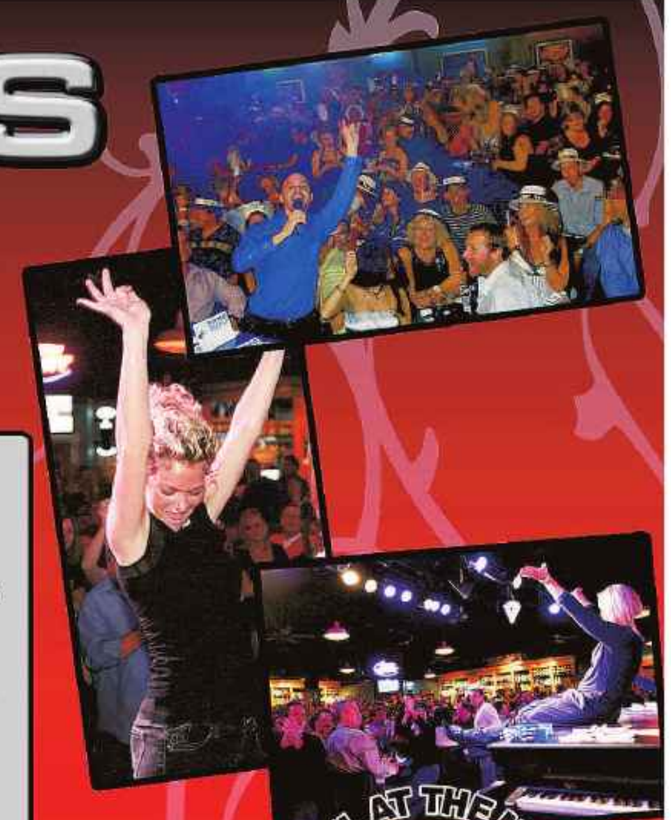

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On sale 10 a.m. Wednesday

Ekoostik Hookah, Saturday, Jan. 23 ($15, 21+) at Martyrs'.

The Good, Suzy Brack and the New Jack Lords, Saturday, Jan. 10 ($10, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Waiflike, Pale Figures, The Locals, Thursday, Jan. 8 ($7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

On sale 9 a.m. Friday

Asleep at the Wheel, The Del Moroccos, Saturday, March 28 ($26-$30, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

The Bad Plus, Friday, April 17 ($21-$25, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

Kathleen Edwards, Clare Burson, Saturday, Feb. 7 ($16-$20, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

Alejandro Escovedo, Carrie Rodriguez, Saturday, April 11 ($21-$25, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

Warren Haynes, Friday, Feb. 20 ($24-$28, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

Lambchop, Saturday, Jan. 24 ($16-$20, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

Patty Loveless, Jim Lauderdale, Saturday, March 14 ($34-$38, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

Joshua Redman, Sunday, March 1 ($26-$30, all ages) at Old Town School of Folk Music.

On sale 10 a.m. Friday

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***American English,** Friday, Feb. 20 ($25-$55, all ages) at Genesee Theatre, Waukegan.

Badfish, Scotty Don't, Saturday, March 21 ($20-$22.50, all ages) at House of Blues.

Dropkick Murphys, Friday, Feb. 28 ($26.50-$29.50, all ages) at Congress Theater.

Kidz in the Hall, Saturday, Dec. 27 ($10-$14, all ages) at Beat Kitchen.

***Kris Kristofferson,** Friday, Jan. 30 ($35-$95, all ages) at Genesee Theatre, Waukegan.

Kreator, Exodus, Belphegor, Friday, April 17 ($25-$28, all ages) at House of Blues.

***John Prine,** Saturday, March 7 ($39.50-$79.50, all ages) at Genesee Theatre, Waukegan.

Matt Wertz, The Alternate Routes, Friday, Feb. 13 ($16-$18, all ages) at House of Blues.

On sale noon Friday

Richard Edwards, Friday, Jan. 23 ($8-$10, 18+) at Schubas.

Lenka, Saturday, Jan. 31 ($14, 18+) at Schubas.

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Wednesday, Feb. 11 ($8, 21+) at Schubas.

On sale 11 a.m. Saturday

King, Tuesday, Dec. 30 ($10-$12, all ages) at Subterranean.

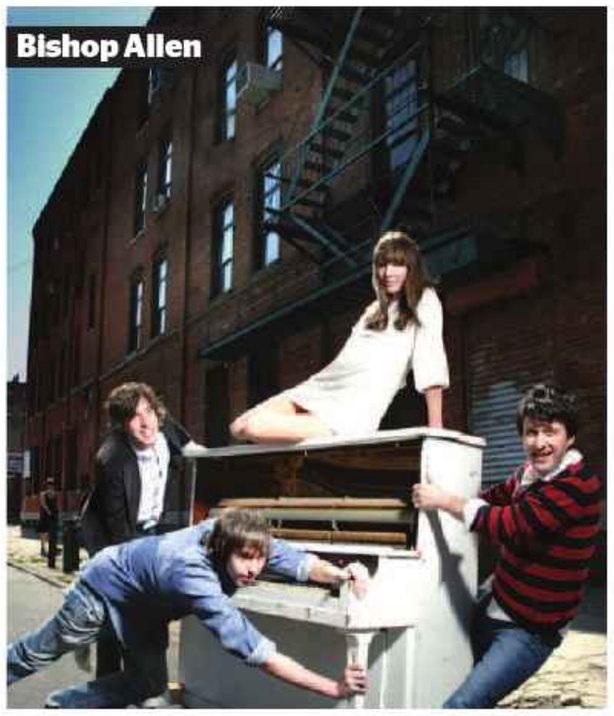
Murder By Death, Wednesday, Feb. 11 ($13-$15, 17+) at Subterranean.

Slipknot, Coheed and Cambria, Trivium, Friday, Jan. 30 ($37.50-$45, all ages) at Allstate Arena.

On sale noon Saturday

Delta Spirit, Other Lives, Dawes, Saturday, Feb. 14 ($8-$10, 21+) at Double Door.

The Fray, Vedera, Friday, Jan. 9 ($27.50, all ages) at Metro.


Bishop Allen

Griffin House, Saturday, Feb. 7 ($15, 21+) at Double Door.

Gun Hat, Seth Wilson, Dan Fuchs, Ess Dot, Business (of the Budget), Shawn Erickson, Sunday, Jan. 25 ($5, 21+) at Double Door.

Kid, You'll Move Mountains, The Sapiens, Pool of Frogs, Picture Books, Friday, Jan. 2 ($8, 18+) at Metro.

Kongh, Samothrace, Minsk, Atlas Moth, Dead Bird, Blood of the Tyrant, Yakuza, Ganon, Saturday, Dec. 20 ($15-$20, 21+) at Double Door.

Roosevelt Jenkins, Awesome Pirates, Phil Circle, Sunday, Jan. 11 ($5, 21+) at Double Door.

Rue, Indian, Ol' Scratch, Battlefields, Across Tundras, Rabid Rabbit, Beneath Oblivion, Drug Honkey, Sunday, Dec. 21 ($15-$20, 21+) at Double Door.

The Stylistics, The Dramatics, The Chi-Lites, Eddie Holman, Jimmie "JJ" Walker, Saturday, Feb. 28 ($30-$50, all ages) at Star Plaza Theatre, Merrillville, Ind.

Tokyo Police Club, Born Ruffians, Wednesday, March 18 ($16-$18, 18+) at Metro.

On sale 10 a.m. Monday

Il Divo, Tuesday, May 19 ($55-$150, all ages) at Rosemont Theater.

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American Taxi, Friday, Dec. 19 ($8-$10, all ages) at Beat Kitchen.

***Bear Hands, Lost in the Trees,** Wednesday, Jan. 14 ($15, 18+) at Schubas.

***Bishop Allen, The Donkeys, Tulsa, Vacations,** Sunday, Jan. 18 ($15, 18+) at Schubas.

***Cursive, Miles Benjamin Anthony Robinson, Colourmusic,** Friday, Jan. 16 ($15, 18+) at Schubas.

***Department of Eagles, Disappears, Alla, The Poison Arrows,** Thursday, Jan. 15 ($15, 18+) at Schubas.

Jon Langford's Skull Orchid, Kaspar Hauser, Friday, Feb. 20 ($8-$10, 17+) at Beat Kitchen.

***Thunderheist, The Wonderful World of Bald Eagle, Pretty Good Dance Moves,** Saturday, Jan. 17 ($15, 18+) at Schubas.

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✔ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes 👂 Hearing - Impaired

G - General audience **PG** *- Parental guidence suggested*
***PG-13** - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13*
***R** - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian*
***NC-17** - No one 17 and under admitted*

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
(312) 255-9340
Show times change daily ♿

AMC Select - The best specialty films
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 2:30,5:15,7:45,10:30
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 2:45,5:30,8:15,10:45
- **Bolt** (PG) 2:15,4:45,7:10,9:40
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 1:15,2:00,4:00,5:00,7:00,8:00,10:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 1:45,3:00,4:30,5:45,7:30,8:45,10:15
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:30,9:00
- **Role Models** (R) 3:45,9:50
- AMC Select **Changeling** (R) 6:30 P.M.

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949
- **Milk** (R) 1:30,2:40,4:30,6:30,7:30,9:45,10:30
- **Name Is Bruce** (R) 1:45,4:30,7:30,10:15
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:45,2:30,4:40,6:15,7:45,9:15,10:30
- **Let the Right** (R) 2:05,4:50,7:40,10:25
- **Synecdoche** (R) 1:40,4:35,7:35,10:20

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)
2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642
- **Faust Enc** (NR) ★ 7:00
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 1:20,2:15,4:40,5:20,7:20,8:10,10:00,10:40
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:15,1:10,2:45,3:50,5:10,6:40,7:40,9:10,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 12:20,1:00,2:00,3:10,4:00,4:50,6:20,7:00, 7:50,9:20,9:55,10:50
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 12:40,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:20
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ★ 12:10,1:50,2:30,4:15,5:00,6:50,7:30,9:15,9:50
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:30,1:45,3:20,4:30,6:10,6:30,7:15, 9:00,9:40,10:10
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:30,1:40,4:10,4:20

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 6:15,8:15,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 5:00,7:30,10:00

(continued)

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE) (continued)
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 5:30,7:30,9:30
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) ★ 5:30,7:45,10:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
(773) 582-1839
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:40
- **Australia** (PG–13) 2:30,5:45,9:00
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 1:15,2:15,3:45,4:45,6:15,7:15,8:40,9:45
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:10,2:10,3:30,4:30,5:45,6:45,8:00,9:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 1:00,2:00,3:40,4:45,6:30,7:30,9:15
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 1:20,3:45,4:45,6:15,7:15,8:45,9:45
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:05,2:05,3:15,4:15,5:30,6:30,8:45
- **Soul Men** (R) 1:45,4:10,7:00,9:20
- **Role Models** (R) 1:50,4:20,7:10,9:30
- **Saw V** (R) 7:40,9:50
- **HS Musical 3** (G) 2:20 P.M.

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
312-846-2800
- **Kings of** (NR) 6:15,8:15
- **Great Muppet** (G) 8:15
- **Oliver Twist** (NR) 6:00

LINCOLN VILLAGE THEATER
6341 N. McCormick at Devon Chicago
312-642-2403

Call theatre for show information

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
- **Role Models** (R) 2:10,4:20,6:25,8:40
- **HS Musical 3** (G) 2:00,4:05,6:10,8:20
- **The Dark Knight** (PG–13) 2:15,5:25,8:10
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 2:00,4:10,6:20,8:30

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
- **Christmas Tale** (NR) 5:30,8:30
- **Day of Wrath** (NR) 5:15,9:45

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)
1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(312) 642-7500
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 3:30,5:40,8:00
- **JCVD** (R) 7:30 P.M.
- **Zack and Miri** (R) 7:15 P.M.
- AMC Select **Happy-Go-Lucky** (R) 1:50,4:30
- **I've Loved You** (PG–13) 2:00 P.M.
- AMC Select **W.** (PG–13) 4:40 P.M.
- AMC Select **Rachel Getting** (R) 2:10,4:50,7:40

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street
847-765-7262
Show times change daily
- AMC Select **Milk** (R) 1:30,4:45,8:00
- **Faust Enc** (NR) 7:00 P.M.
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 1:10,2:10,3:45,4:45,6:20,7:20,9:00,10:00
- **Australia** (PG–13) 3:45,7:30
- **Bolt** (PG) 12:40 P.M.
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ◆ 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 1:10,2:10,3:10,4:15,6:15,7:25,9:20,10:30
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 3:00,6:00,8:45
- **Role Models** (R) 8:15,10:40
- AMC Select **Changeling** (R) 1:35,4:50

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)
7000 Carperter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309
- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 12:30,2:40,4:20,6:10,8:20,9:45
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 2:10,5:00,7:30,10:00

(continued)

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:40,1:10,3:00,4:10,5:30,6:50,7:50,9:30,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 12:10,1:00,1:30,2:00,3:20,4:00,4:30,5:10, 6:30,7:00,7:40,8:10,9:20,9:55,10:30
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 12:20,12:50,1:50,2:50,3:40,4:15,5:20,6:05,6:40,8:40,9:10
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ★ 2:20,4:45,7:10,9:40
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:45,1:40,3:30,4:40,6:20,7:20,8:00, 9:00,10:25,10:40
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:00,2:30,4:50,7:15,9:50
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 1:20,3:50,6:45,9:15
- **Role Models** (R) 2:15,5:15,7:45,10:10

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641
- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 12:30,2:15,4:15,6:10,8:00,9:40
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:30,9:50
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 12:10,1:00,3:15,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:10,10:00
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 2:00,4:40,7:10,9:30
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:45,1:30,2:30,3:45,4:30,5:15,6:30, 7:20,7:50,9:20,10:10,10:30
- **Role Models** (R) 1:45,4:50,7:40,10:20
- **Changeling** (R) 3:30,6:40,9:45

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646
- **Australia** (PG–13) 2:20,6:10,9:45
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) 1:20,2:10,4:10,5:00,6:40,7:30,9:20,10:00
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 12:15,2:40,5:10,7:45,10:20
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 12:30,1:00,1:30,3:20,4:00,4:40,6:20,7:00,7:40, 9:10,10:10,10:40
- **Bolt** (PG) 12:20,1:10,2:00,2:50,3:40,4:30,5:20,6:30,7:20,7:50,9:00, 9:50,10:15
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:40,1:45,3:50,4:20,6:45,7:15,9:40,10:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:10,2:30,4:50,7:10,9:30
- **Role Models** (R) 12:50,6:50
- **Soul Men** (R) 3:30,9:15

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)
4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644
- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 2:20,6:10,9:55
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 1:20,2:10,4:10,5:00,6:40,7:40,9:20,10:20
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:10,12:50,2:30,3:10,4:50,5:30,7:10,8:00,9:45
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 12:30,1:00,1:40,3:20,4:00,4:40,6:20,7:00, 7:45,9:10,10:10,10:40
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 12:20,1:10,2:00,2:45,3:40,4:30,5:15,6:30,7:20,7:50,9:00,9:50
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:40,1:30,3:50,4:20,6:45,7:30,9:30,10:00,10:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:50,4:15,6:50,9:40
- **Role Models** (R) 10:15

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) 1:00,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:45
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) 1:00,3:05,5:10,7:15,9:20
- **Australia** (PG–13) 11:50,3:10,6:30,9:50
- **Twilight** (PG–13) 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:05,9:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:05,3:10,5:15,7:20,9:25

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 MAPLE AVE.
(847)492-0123 ♿
- **Faust Enc** (NR) ★ 7:00
- **Australia** (PG–13) ★ 11:40,1:20,3:10,4:50,6:40,8:25,10:10
- **Bolt** (PG) ★ 11:30,12:20,1:10,2:00,2:50,3:40,4:30,5:20,6:10,7:50,10:20
- **Changeling** (R) 8:40
- **Four Chris** (PG–13) ★ 12:10,1:15,2:25,3:35,4:45,6:00,7:10, 8:20,9:30,10:35
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 11:35,1:55,4:15,6:35,8:55
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG–13) 12:30,1:40,2:20,3:05,4:30,5:50,7:10,8:30,10:00
- **Rachel Getting** (R) 11:40
- **Role Models** (R) 11:35,2:05,4:35,7:05,9:35
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:25,1:05,2:30,4:05,5:25,7:15,8:35,10:05
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG–13) ★ 12:15,2:40,5:05,7:30,10:10
- **Transporter 3** (PG–13) ★ 11:50,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:40
- **Twilight** (PG–13) ★ 11:45,1:00,2:35,3:55,5:30,6:50,8:15,9:50

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DIGITS
The number of iPhones, BlackBerries and other smart phones in use has nearly tripled in the past year.

8% Americans who owned smart phones in **July 2007**.

22% Americans who owned smart phones in **July 2008**.

SPEAKING OF IPHONES
Have an iPhone? Check out Scott Kleinberg's iPhone blog, iPTIB, at **iptib.com** to find the latest news.

1-800-SHAME

Your phone can say a lot about you—from status symbol to personality

The Boston Globe

Chris Glionna used to be embarrassed by his cell phone.

The director of operations for the Aquitaine Group, who oversees five restaurants in Boston, kept his clunky old Sanyo cell phone hidden in his bag for fear of chortles and stares. The bulky, blue rubber phone had served him well for five years. But Glionna worried that his old phone was sending the wrong message.

"People who worked with me were saying 'Dude, what's with the paperweight? That's so 1985,'" the 43-year-old said. "I even had [vendors] laugh at me."

Seeing more of his colleagues upgrade to sleek new smart phones—the name applied to iPhones, BlackBerries, and others that connect to the Internet—Glionna had enough of phone shame. He bought a BlackBerry in September.

"In the end, I honestly thought the phone was hurting me," he said. "I'm not an insecure person, but I was really insecure about my phone."

Mobile phones have increasingly emerged as personal signifiers and status symbols, separating the early adopters from the technophobes, Mac users from PC fans, the flashy and fashion-forward from the practical and low-key. Technology trend watchers say the proliferation of smart phones has turned phone shame into an epidemic.

"A lot of gadgets these days have become more of a style or status symbol," said Steve Kidera of the Consumer Electronics Association.

Now, "an iPhone is like the Rolex of phones," he said. "You want people to see you on your iPhone or your BlackBerry to show your status."

As the number of people carrying smart phones climbs, those with antiquated mobiles are feeling a creeping sense of embarrassment over their late conversion to new technology. According to the CEA, the number of iPhones, BlackBerries, and other smart phones has nearly tripled in the past year. In July 2007, only 8 percent of Americans owned smart phones. By July of this year, that number had soared to 22 percent. A spokesman for the CEA says that percentage should continue to climb with last month's release of another high-profile techie tool—the much-coveted Google G1 phone.

"You can tell a lot about a person by the kind of phone they carry," image consultant Doris Klietmann said. "If you have someone with a BlackBerry, you can usually assume they're educated and they either earn a good salary or they have an important job that requires them to be in constant communication. You can also assume that someone with a 16-gigabyte iPhone also makes a decent amount of money and is someone who always has to have the newest thing. People who have these phones are conscious of things like fashion designers and like to stay on top of trends."

Increasingly, the type of cell phone we chat on—or text with—says as much about us as the way we dress or the car we drive, according to CNET senior editor Kent German.

"The cell phone is different from most other pieces of technology because it's something you use all the time and carry with you everywhere you go," said German, on the phone from his office in San Francisco. (For the record, German's currently testing a Sony-Ericsson C902, which isn't available in the U.S.) "It's really an extension of your personality and style, unlike a camera or a computer. That's why you have the kiosks in the mall where you can get the plates, charms, and all those phone accessories."

Caitlin Gallagher, a 32-year-old writer from Cambridge, Mass., found out the hard way how phones can be an extension of your style. When she renewed her cell service contract last spring she opted for the cheapest phone available. Ever since then, her giant phone has become the butt of jokes among her friends.

"My friend's 65-year-old dad just got the same phone as mine," Gallagher said. "It's basically the least cool phone you could own. My friend Greg told me that my phone is so big that I don't actually need to call anyone on it. He said I can just tap people with it from three states away."

Top touch screens

What are the top touch-screen smart phones on the market? The first two are easy, but the list gets crowded after that. Many touch-screen models recently have been introduced, so one of those could crack the top two. But I'm dubious.

iPhone

1 Apple's gadget remains the standard because its elegant multitouch display allows for fast, responsive scrolling and easy enlargements of images and Web pages.

T-Mobile G1, Google phone

2 Almost as intuitive as the iPhone's screen, but maker HTC cleverly compensated by adding a slide-out QWERTY keyboard and track ball.

Everyone else

3 I like the touch features on the Samsung Instinct, BlackBerry Storm and Motorola Krave. These phones are recommended, but don't expect an iPhone-like experience.

ERIC BENDEROFF, TRIBUNE

Talk the talk

By barking loudly into cell phones in public settings, people reveal personal details every day (yes, we're talking to you, cell-phone screamers). But even low talkers divulge hints about themselves simply by taking out their phone. So what does your mobile say about you? THE BOSTON GLOBE

G1

Google's first phone rolled out in October and still is finding a home in messenger bags and man purses around the country. But based on its features, we predict that hip PC users (yes, they do exist), hard-core texters, and neatniks who prefer a roller ball to a smudgy touch screen will flock to the device. Expect to see the G1 in a holster on the belt of your company's computer guy this Christmas.

iPhone *(see above)*

You're an architect, science nerd, graphic designer, or someone who has way too much time to fiddle with the many applications that become available every day. Owners apologize for pulling out their iPhone every time you ask a question, but secretly delight in the fact that they can Google the answer.

Razr

We'll admit it, 2005 was a great year. Disneyland celebrated its 50th anniversary and "Arrested Development" was still on. But time has not been as kind to 2005's top fashion phone, the Razr. Once used by the uber-fashionable, it's now favored by clerks at Claire's and those who refuse to change "Gold Digger" as their ring tone.

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

Can the new BlackBerries measure up?

With the touch-screen Storm, Research In Motion Ltd. offers a response to Apple's iPhone. Unfortunately, the Storm is more like a flurry, failing to add much more than a trace of innovation. If you use a BlackBerry, you quickly will grasp the basics of how to work this phone. But if you're a smartphone newbie looking for a touch-screen model, there are better choices. The Storm is sleek and offers nice multimedia functions; videos look great. But navigating the phone can be cumbersome. The faithful BlackBerry user may be better off with the Bold, another RIM model with multimedia muscle plus two fast network connections. Here's a quick look at the two phones. ERIC BENDEROFF, TRIBUNE

The Storm

» On sale now at Verizon Wireless for $199 with a two-year contract.

» "Clickable" type takes getting used to and falls short of a physical keyboard.

» Having three keyboard styles is confusing. It's a QWERTY only when held horizontally.

» Where's the Wi-Fi connection? (Verizon says Wi-Fi isn't necessary because of the breadth of its high-speed network.)

The Bold

» At $299, price is too high compared with other smart phones.

» BlackBerry fans will be pleased with this responsive and easy-to-navigate model.

» Comfortable to hold, easy to type with one hand.

» It runs on AT&T's high-speed 3G network, and you can access Wi-Fi networks.

Bluetooth headset

We're aware it's not a phone, but Bluetooth has a demographic all its own, namely those who think, "My ideas are so important, I need to keep this wacky silver thing in my ear at all times in case I feel the need to share my wisdom."

Sidekick

Perfect for the nimble-fingered teen who can't stop texting, the Sidekick is the preferred means of communication among students, rappers, pop stars, gentlemen in the throes of a midlife crisis, or anyone who has a hard time spelling out "be right back" or "too busy for you cutie."

BlackBerry

(see story at right)

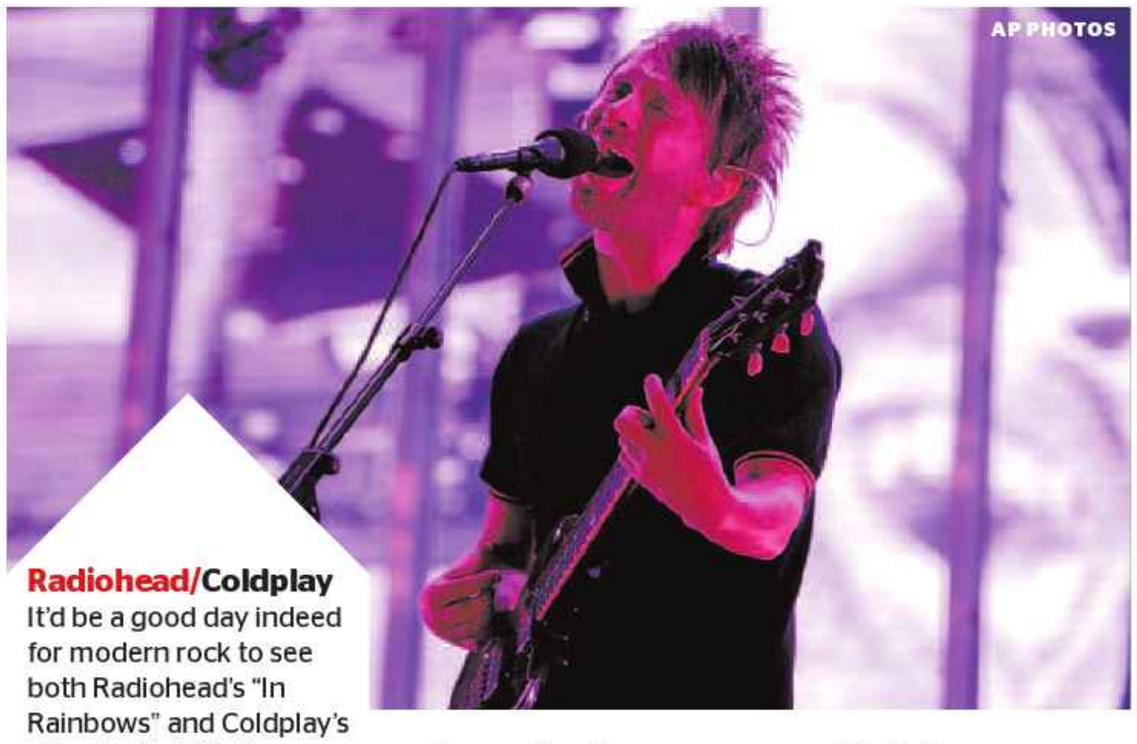
The smart phone preferred by financial professionals, government officials, party planners, and those who didn't quite complete their 12-step program for e-mail addiction. While the iPhone is favored by people who wear jeans and Pumas to work, BlackBerry users can't quit their khakis.

Guide to the Grammy's pre-show

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

For the first time ever, fans can watch live as the Grammy nominations are announced at 8 p.m. Wednesday on CBS' "The Grammy Nominations Concert Live!! Countdown to Music's Biggest Night." Performers include Christina Aguilera, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Foo Fighters, B.B. King and John Mayer. LL Cool J and Taylor Swift will host. The Grammy Awards will air Feb. 8 on CBS.

Things to look for when the nominations are announced



AP PHOTOS

Radiohead/Coldplay
It'd be a good day indeed for modern rock to see both Radiohead's "In Rainbows" and Coldplay's "Viva La Vida" both up for Album of the Year. If it doesn't happen, it'll nearly discount the rest of this category.

Nas
Nas' latest CD may have gone out without a title, but it could walk away with Best Rap Album and more.

Leona Lewis
The boring but talented Leona Lewis and her "Bleeding Love" single seem perfectly packaged for Grammy success. She'll be eyeing possible nominations such as Best New Artist, Song of the Year and Album of the Year.

Alicia Keys
Keys did well last year on the strength of her single "No One," but her "As I Am" wasn't yet eligible. It's eligible now, and this Grammy favorite will reap those benefits including an Album of the Year nomination.

Madonna/ Mariah Carey
There shouldn't be much of a to-do with either Carey or Madonna when the nominations are revealed, though Carey's "E=MC2" and Madonna's "Hard Candy" should receive a couple of nods in R&B and pop/ dance categories, respectively.

Carrie Underwood
The presence of Swift as a co-host of the Grammy special means Underwood may want to watch her back, but for now Underwood and her "Carnival Ride" will do just fine, particularly in country categories.

Duffy
The influence of Amy Winehouse last year helped open the door to the retro stylings of Duffy, who, like Lewis, looks like a Best New Artist nominee.

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AP FILE

Coming to Blockbuster stores: Concert tickets

Blockbuster will begin selling concert tickets at about 500 of its video rental stores, bolstering its effort to create a one-stop shop for entertainment.

Under a three-year agreement announced Tuesday, Blockbuster's stores next month will become the primary brick-and-mortar sales outlet for music concerts staged by promoter Live Nation in the U.S.

Blockbuster will supplant a hodgepodge of department stores, supermarkets and other retailers that Live Nation had been relying upon as part of an unraveling partnership with Ticketmaster. Live Nation is breaking away from Ticketmaster to build its own ticketing channel. Ticketmaster will continue to handle some of Live Nation's sales until contracts covering several concert venues expire. AP

Nintendo moves into the kitchen

Los Angeles Times

Nintendo: It's not just for kids.

Or at least that's what Nintendo of America is banking on as it unveils a new interactive Game Boy-like device called Personal Trainer: Cooking. Using Nintendo DS technology, Personal Trainer: Cooking is basically a small gray hand-held box—with a touch screen and voice recognition—that stores more than 245 recipes.

Once you decide on a recipe (based on country of origin, cooking time, ingredients, calorie count, etc.), a little animated chef with a monotone electronic voice and a bushy mustache talks you through the steps to making the dish. Videos of the more difficult steps are available for viewing. There also IS an interactive shopping list function that helps would-be chefs check off ingredients as they buy them.

The official Web site (**personaltrainercooking.com**) for this strange little device has a video of two teens cooking crab cakes using their Personal Trainer. It's worth watching for its sheer awkwardness and unintentional tawdriness. The girls sit at a kitchen table

Two girls learn to make crab cakes using Personal Trainer: Cooking on the Nintendo DS.

giggling and wondering what they can make with crab meat. The Personal Trainer suggests crab cakes and the girls giggle their way through more than five painful minutes of footage as they wonder whether to pull crab meat from a shell using their fingers or a fork.

"I think a kid could do this," one of them announces as they sit down to eat. And watching this display, viewers might think that's what all those Personal Trainers that end up under the tree this year will be used for in the end. A seasoned home cook likely wouldn't rely on such a device.

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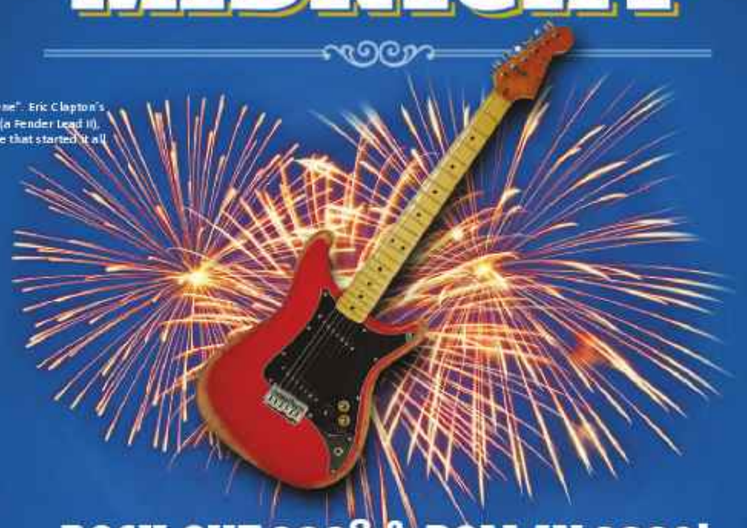

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Gaming heroes

New titles bring old friends back on game systems

Superheroes may have taken over Hollywood, but they've had a more difficult time trying to conquer the video-game world. Sure, recent games featuring Iron Man and Spider-Man have sold well, but they haven't fired up gamers the way that a typical Grand Theft Auto or Madden NFL release does. LOU KESTEN, AP

MORTAL KOMBAT VS. DC UNIVERSE

XB 360, PS3, $59.99

Here's one of those "what if?" scenarios that comic-book writers love so much: Who would win a fight between Sub-Zero and Superman? Or Kitana and Catwoman? Yes, it's 11 popular Mortal Kombat fighters vs. 11 of DC Comics' famous heroes and villains. Midway has added a few new twists: Characters can pound each other through walls and fight in midair, and the developers have toned down the violence to get a teen-friendly rating. As always with this genre, it's much more fun to play against a friend than against the computer. MK vs. DCU is decent fan service, but it won't hold the interest of anyone who doesn't care about both ends of its equation.

SPIDER-MAN: WEB OF SHADOWS

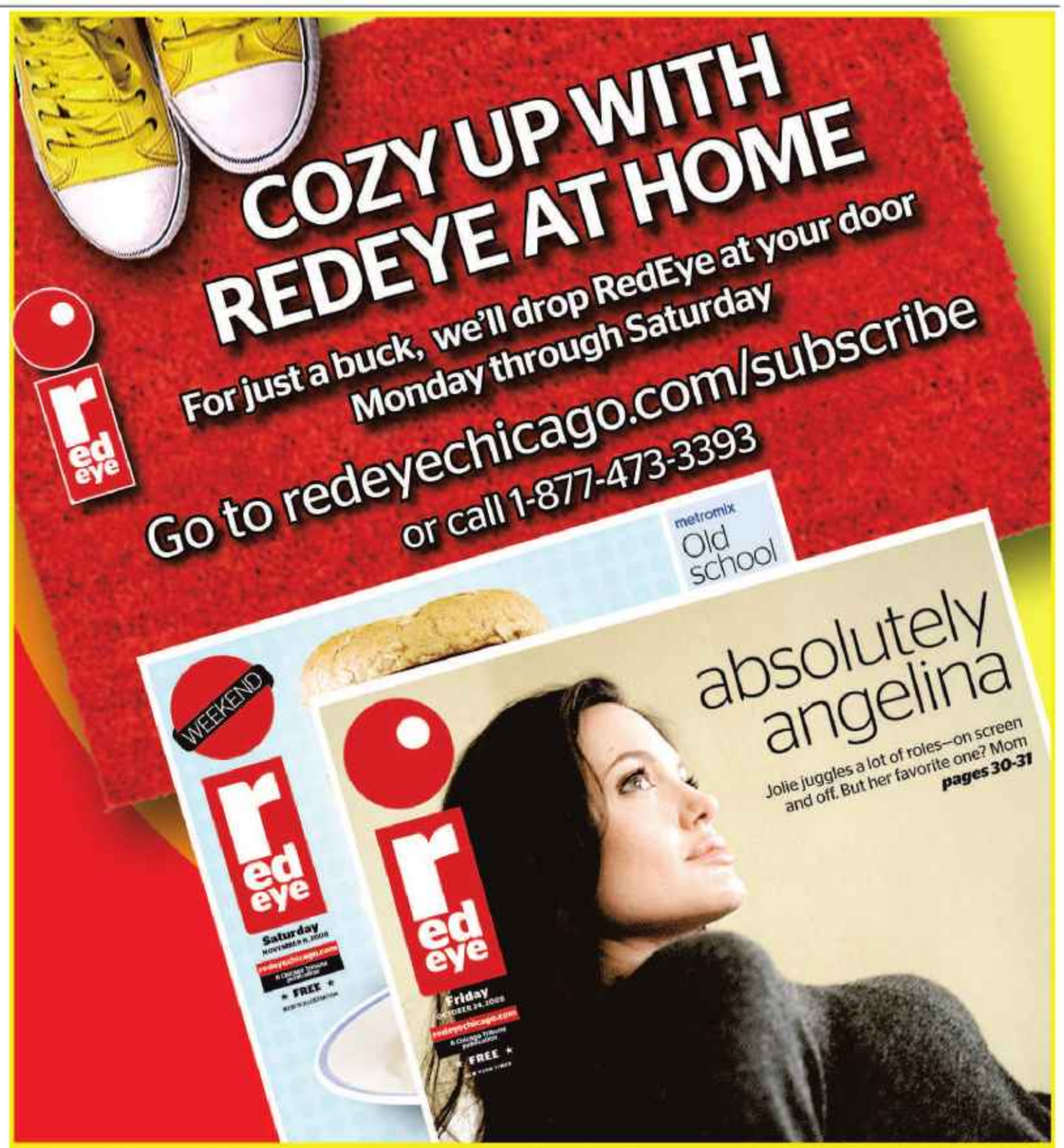
XB360, PS3, $59.99 / Wii, $49.99 / PS2, PSP, $39.99 / NDS, $29.99

Remember the black-suited web-crawler from "Spider-Man 3"? He's back in Web of Shadows, which allows Peter Parker to switch easily between his red (good) and black (evil) alter egos. Unfortunately, the choices you make don't have much effect on which missions you'll fight—and those missions, which often require simply beating on a group of thugs or aliens, get repetitious fast. And the boss battles against third-string Marvel villains like Electro and Vulture go on forever. It's fun to swing through the streets of Manhattan with Spidey, but the rest of Web of Shadows is a drag.

LEGO BATMAN

XB360, PS3, Wii, $49.99 / PS2, PSP, DS, $29.99

This lighthearted romp is a real treat for Batmaniacs of all ages. The Joker, the Penguin, Two-Face and other miscreants are on the loose (again) in Gotham City, and it's up to Batman and Robin to stop their reign of terror. The game is a mix of easy combat, clever puzzle-solving and an occasional ride in the Batmobile. And it's always a kick to bust open a box of blocks and reassemble them into some goofy weapon. The developers need to sort out a few issues (static camera angles, crummy artificial intelligence), but Lego Batman makes the Caped Crusader fun again.



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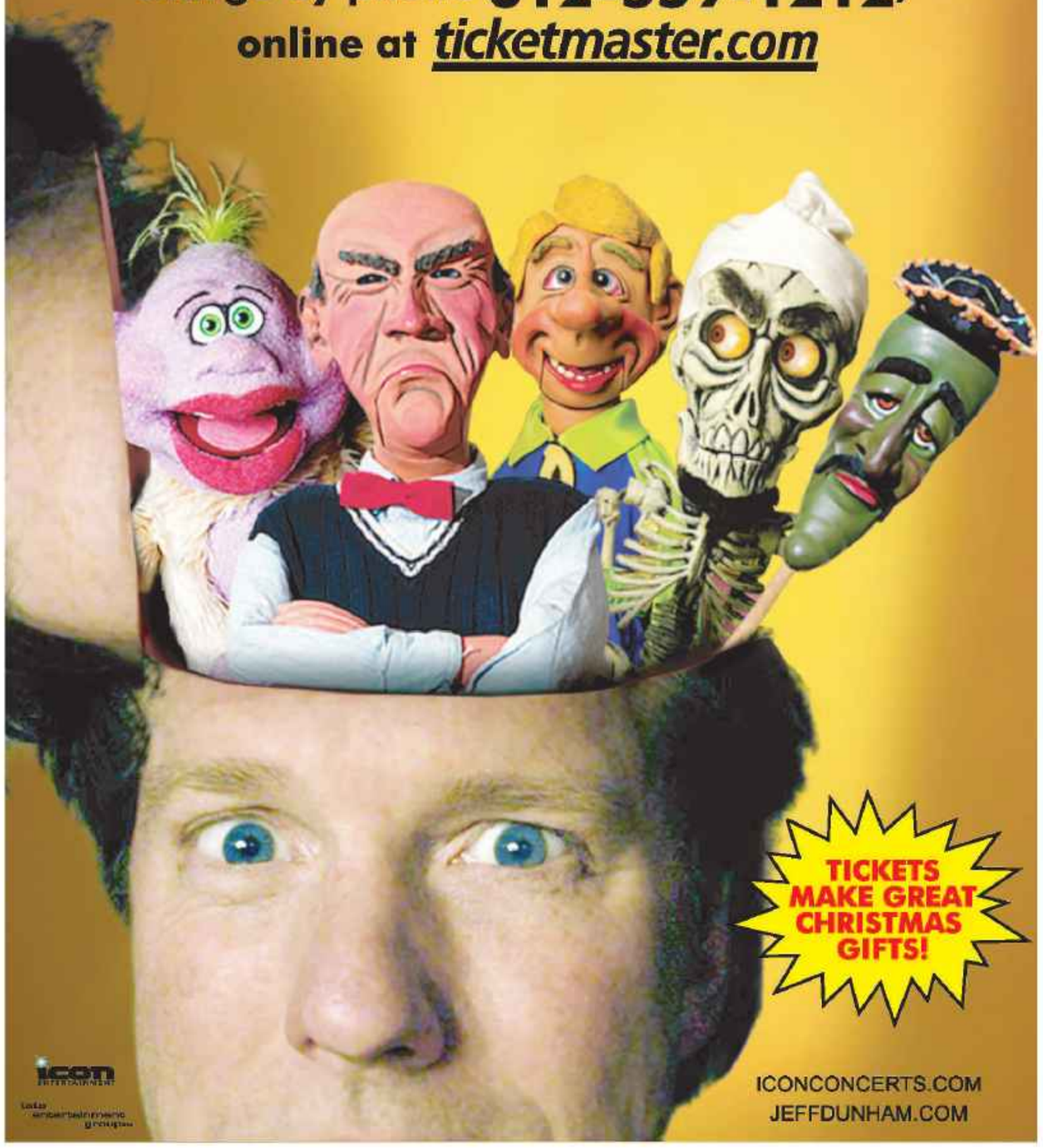

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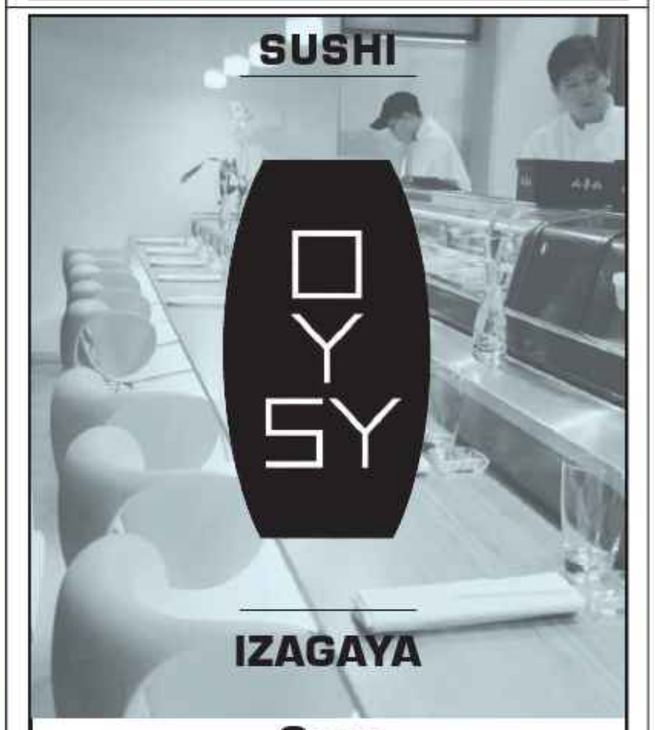

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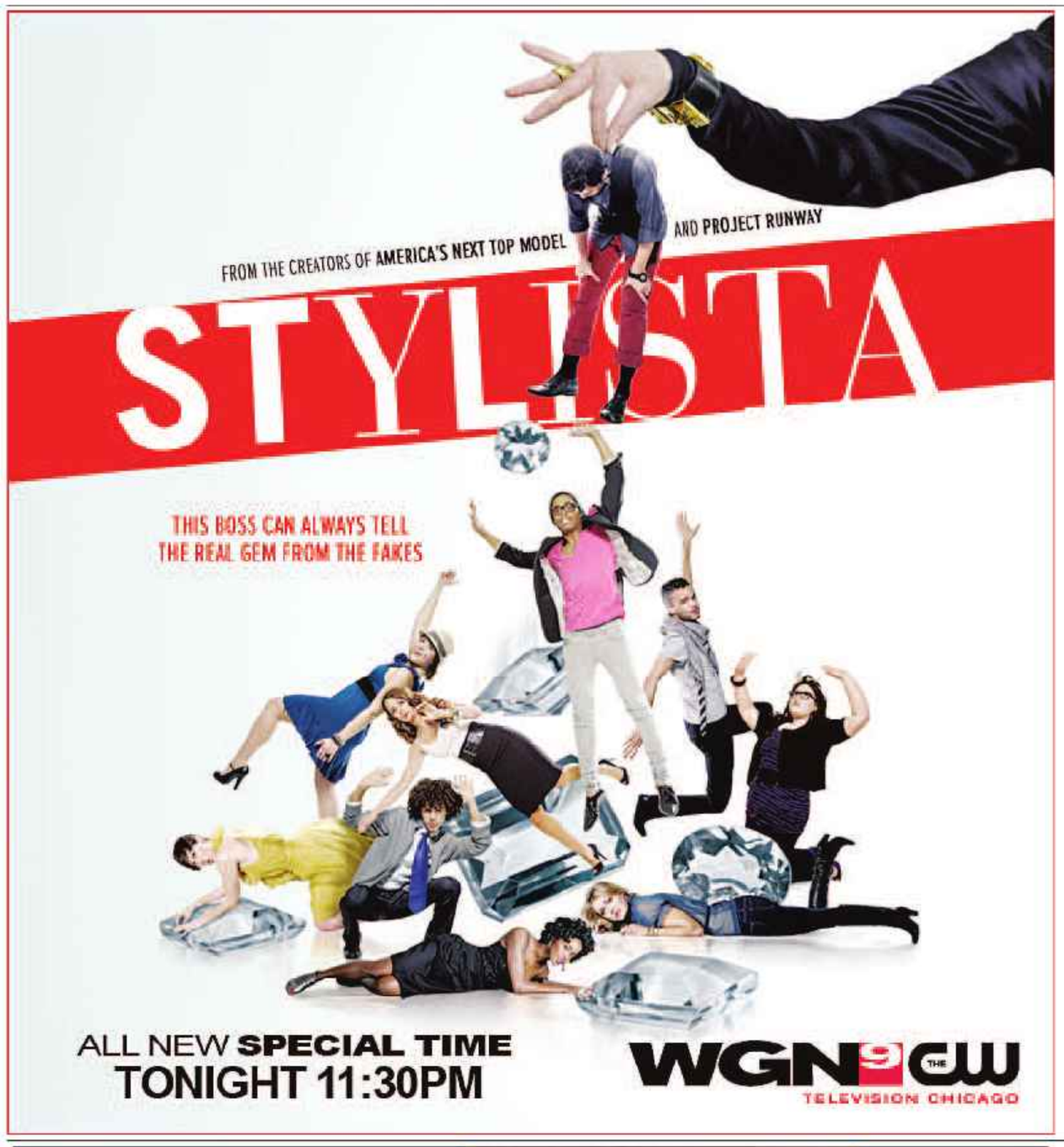

How to cut costs on your big day

Associated Press

In this difficult economy, more young couples are looking for ways to save on wedding expenses.

Teddy Lenderman, an author and longtime wedding consultant in Terre Haute, Ind., has noted the growing concerns about wedding costs among her clients.

"We just work at compromising and spending those wedding bucks where we can get the most impact," said Lenderman, author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to a Perfect Wedding."

The average cost of a wedding is just under $29,000, according to The Wedding Report, a wedding industry market research group.

But these days, Lenderman says, couples are more likely to haggle with wedding vendors. Still others are buying wedding supplies from online discount merchants and other wholesalers. And couples are doing a lot more of the work themselves, with the help of family members and friends.

Here Lenderman offers a few tips for saving money on a wedding:

» Set a budget and stick to it. To do that, make a list of the items that are most important to you. If photos are really important and flowers aren't, hire a professional photographer and have a single rose or a simple arrangement for the bride to carry.

» Schedule the wedding on a Friday or Sunday. Venues often cost less to rent when your wedding is not on a Saturday. You also could have your wedding and reception at the same place.

» Ask wedding vendors you're dealing with for discounts. The worst thing they can say is "no."

» If there is another wedding at your location that weekend, ask the other couple if they'd share costs for the ceremony flowers. Or use your ceremony flowers at the reception.

» Use disposable dinnerware instead of china and glass.

» Have a midafternoon wedding and serve cake and punch or champagne, instead of having a meal.

» Check resale shops for gowns and tuxes that have never been worn, or with minimal wear. Or consider less traditional attire that may be cheaper.

» Borrow items like the cake knife or toast goblets, the ring bearer pillow or flower girl basket. If the bride wears a veil, borrow it or use your mother's. Many of these items also can be purchased online at wholesale prices.

» Instead of spending money on individual favors for guests, make a donation to your favorite charity and place a nicely written note on each table, telling them "In your honor, a donation has been made to..."

» Make use of talented friends who might be musicians, photographers, chefs or dress designers.

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wear wolves

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The guys: "Transformer super power, engage!"	Perfect—until the white shoes.	Get clothes that fit and learn to stand in them.	Madonna did the raccoon tail already. Pay attention.	One word—tragic.	Bad taste is never funny.
Tennille: Miss Rihanna looked awesome in this super-studded bustier.	A great-looking man in a fantastically tailored suit.	I liked the dress she performed in much better.	In a league by himself. We'll be trying this style in a few months.	Not her best look; what's up with the black handbag?	Because she is so darn funny, she gets a pass!
Phnewfula: Aeon Flux turned dominatrix.	Not the best way to do all black.	Almost. If the suit were a bit more fitted it would be hot.	"I choose music over fashion for $500, Alex."	She looks like a Garrett popcorn kernel.	Honestly folks, why waste the flash?

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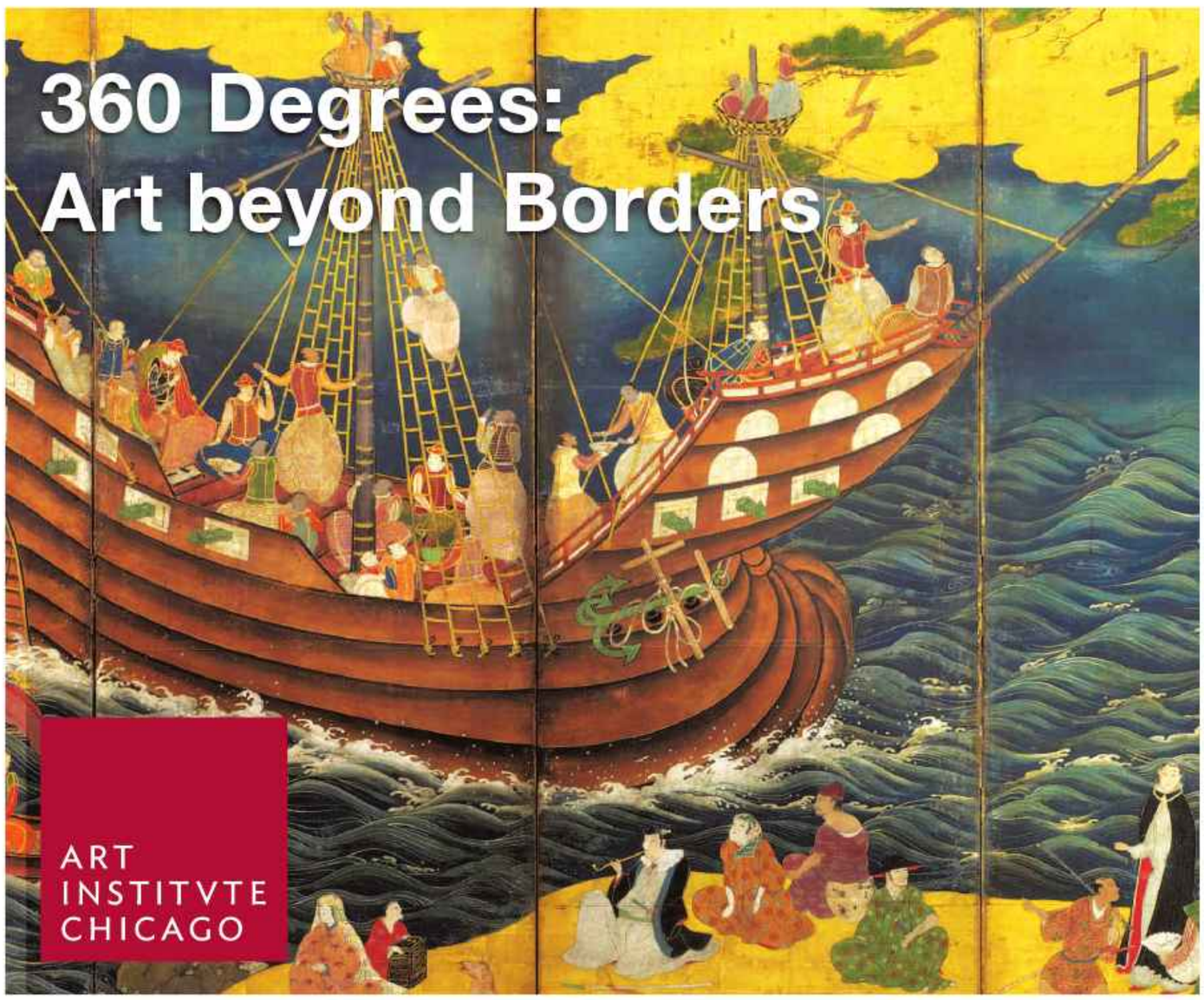

CONCERTS

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German artist Max Klinger is noted for his "illustrations" for Brahms's *Fantasias*. Brahms's string sextets, his first chamber works written without piano, will be played by the Lincoln String Sextet. Call (312) 294-3000 for tickets.

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December 18 at 6:00 $

The amazing Newberry Consort presents works to highlight the imagery in selected tapestries from *The Divine Art: Four Centuries of European Tapestries*.
Event Code: EAIJ 1218.

LECTURES

Challenging the Encyclopedic Museum: Berlin's Museum Island $
December 4 at 6:00

Thomas Gaehtgens, director of the Getty Research Institute, reflects on Berlin's encyclopedic National Museums.
Event Code: EAIJ 1204.

Mediterranean Crossings: The Quest of "Leo Africanus"
December 11 at 6:00

Historian Natalie Zemon Davis, professor at the University of Toronto and best known for her book *The Return of Martin Guerre*, discusses her most recent book *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth Century Muslim between Worlds*.

Southern Barbarians (Namban byobu) (detail), early 17th century. Japan. Robert Allerton Endowment Fund.

$ tickets required :: www.360degreeschicago.org

All events take place at the Art Institute of Chicago

360 degrees art beyond borders

For tickets – Harris Theater Box Office:
312-334-7777
www.harristheaterchicago.org
For concert info & special packages:
www.holidaypopschicago.com

Rob Elgas of NBC5 hosts the 2008

Holiday Pops

CHICAGO

The 140-member Holiday Pops Chicago Chorus and 48-piece Southport Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Scott Arkenberg, perform the best-loved holiday music and songs of the season with special guests: The Alphonsus Academy & Center for the Arts Children's Chorus.

7:30pm,
Wed., Dec. 10

HARRISTHEATER
FOR MUSIC AND DANCE
MILLENNIUM PARK

205 E. Randolph, Chicago, IL

The Holiday Pops Concert has become a Chicago tradition: a much loved part of the holiday music scene since 2001. In a true labor of love, a diverse group of local Chicago voices comes together to present this magical evening of song and joy, laughter and warmth. Highlights include a visit from Santa, audience sing-a-longs and the Parade of the Wooden Soldiers! The beautiful music that comes from this collaboration is exhilarating and the enthusiasm and spirit is contagious.

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14 min.

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4		5	3			6		
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7	3		1					
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

L	A	N	A	■	S	A	M	■	R	A	S	P	E	D
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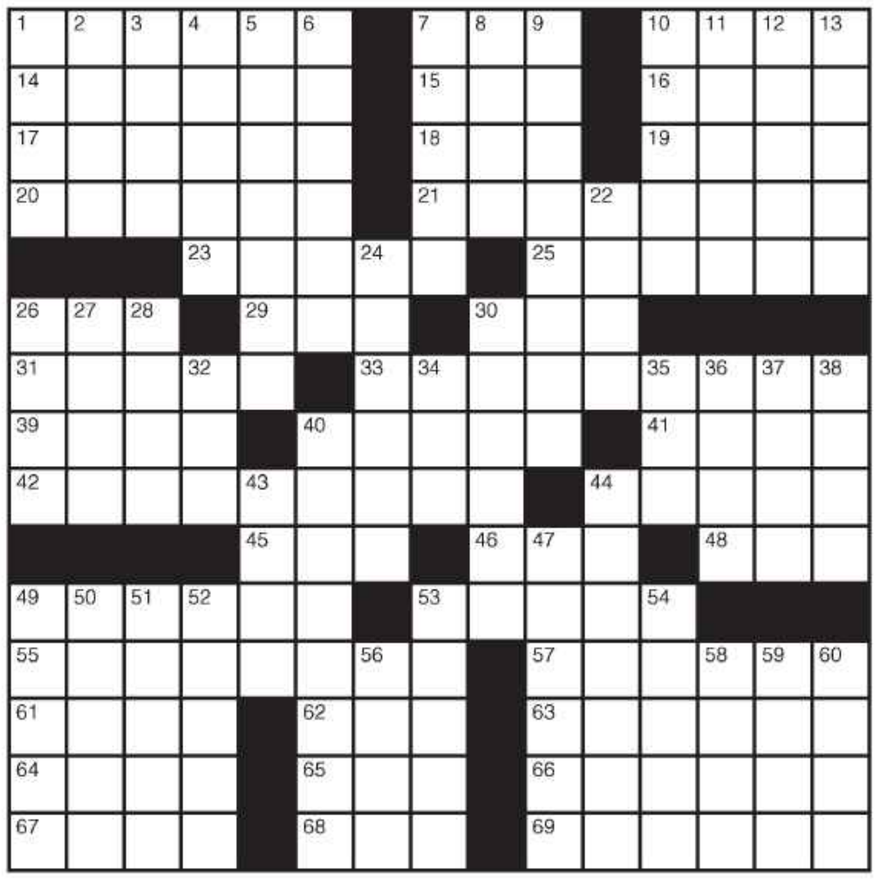
R	E	D	S	E	A	■	I	S	S	■	S	A	S	S

ACROSS
1 Rent contracts
7 Reunion grp.
10 Pass out cards
14 To each one
15 Old card game
16 Fashion of the moment
17 Soldier's collection
18 Jillian or Landers
19 Largest continent
20 Get out of here!
21 Jerry's sitcom
23 Mote
25 Data on jackets
26 Clodhopper
29 Letters on Cardinal caps
30 Pro's foe
31 Rhythmic throb
33 Consciousness
39 Time periods
40 Painter Hals
41 Market or collar lead-in
42 Spanish horseman
44 Handbill
45 Mare's tidbit
46 Star quality
48 Hot spring
49 Least likely to appear
53 Garbage emanations
55 Mileage recorder
57 Hoodwinked
61 Oft-quoted Berra
62 Ernie of the links
63 On cloud nine
64 Promote criminal activity
65 _ Paulo, Brazil
66 Antonin of the Supreme Court
67 Camera's eye
68 Spike TV, once
69 Messenger

DOWN
1 Mary's follower
2 Fencing sword
3 Rice/John musical
4 Bleachers, e.g.
5 Solar event
6 Last part of a sonnet
7 Liquor container
8 Top-drawer
9 Computer screens
10 Air current
11 Atelier stand
12 Catlike
13 Starring roles
22 _ Inch Nails
24 Red table wine
26 Well-oiled grp.?
27 Mystique
28 Loose weight?
30 Went by dugout
32 Retirement grp.
34 Open hostilities
35 Org. of Raiders and Vikings
36 Yale grads
37 Ooze
38 Poet Teasdale
40 Most level
43 Suffer defeat
44 A single time
47 Children's card game
49 Of a monarch
50 Clay brick
51 Seth of "Superbad"
52 Gives off
53 Bean or Welles
54 Battery type
56 Zest
58 "Damn Yankees" role
59 Bad to the bone
60 Bereft of sensation



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whoville

BY JIM WALSH

Millionaire Molly Shattuck goes undercover, helping a salon owner with a princess party, on an upcoming episode of " Secret Millionaire." FOX TELEVISION

Mad money

Newsday

"Secret Millionaire," a new Fox reality show based on a British hit, debuts at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Its premise is sort of intriguing: A millionaire agrees to give away tens of thousand of dollars of his or her own money after spending time in an impoverished community where no one knows he or she is rich.

Nice touch for these times, eh? Anyhow, the show's title calls to mind these five "millionaire" TV shows or characters.

The Millionaire *1955-60*

Each week on this dramatic anthology, the title character, John Beresford Tipton (who was heard, but never seen on camera), would instruct his personal secretary to bestow a check for $1 million (tax-free) on an unsuspecting individual.

The millionaire and his wife *1964-67*

How the wealthy, stuffy Thurston Howell III (Jim Backus) and his wife, Lovey (Natalie Schafer), were referred to in the "Gilligan's Island" theme song. They're still the subjects of one of TV's enduring mysteries: How did they know to pack three years' worth of clothing on a three-hour tour?

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire

1999-

Incredibly popular game show hosted on ABC by Regis Philbin, and now in syndication by Meredith Vieira.

Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?

2000

Infamous Fox reality show in which contestant Rick Rockwell winnowed out Darva Conger from a group of 50 women. Shortly after the show aired, it was revealed Rockwell had been slapped with a restraining order by a former girlfriend.

Joe Millionaire

2003

Highly successful Fox reality show in which an ordinary schmo pretended to be a millionaire to win a hot babe's heart. The test came when said hot babe learned Joe Millionaire wasn't even Joe the Plumber.

How'd they do that?

The new Fox reality show "Secret Millionaire" features a group of millionaires who go undercover, posing as average people, to find others worthy of financial help.

Finding people who need money is a no-brainer. The task was to find millionaires who were willing to give away their own money.

Executive producer Bruce Toms ("The Real World") explains that the search required doing a little homework.

"This was different than casting a normal reality show," Toms said. "We couldn't put anything out on any kind of Web site or anything. So it was very targeted. We did a lot of research through Lexis-Nexis and reading articles and lists. And then it was contacting and getting through the different levels of gatekeepers. Millionaires tend to have a lot of people that keep you away from their fortunes." MCT

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Get your celeb fix anytime you want it. Go to **redeyechicago.com** on your mobile phone.

Hathaway in "Rachel Getting Married"
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Smells like indie spirit

Anne Hathaway's drama "Rachel Getting Married" was among the top nominees Tuesday for the Spirit Awards with six nominations, including best picture, The Associated Press reported. Hathaway and Michelle Williams, who starred in "Wendy and Lucy," garnered lead-actress nominations. Sean Penn is up for a lead-actor award for "Milk;" he faces Mickey Rourke, Javier Bardem, Richard Jenkins and Jeremy Renner. The Spirit Awards will be presented Feb. 21, a day before the Academy Awards.

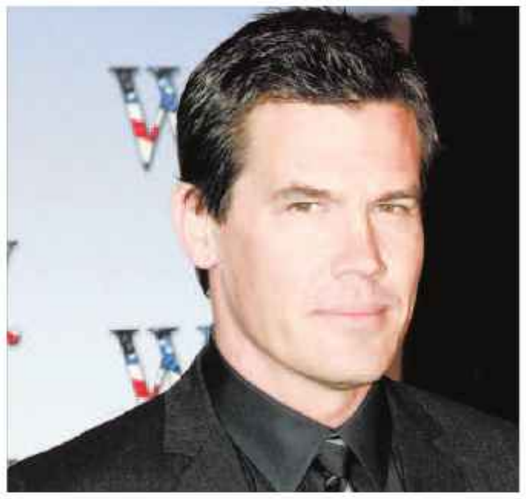
Save the dates

The eighth Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival will be held June 11-14 next year on its usual site in Manchester, Tenn., **billboard.com** reported. The first round of ticket pre-sales begins Thursday; a lineup announcement is expected early next year. Last year's lineup featured Metallica, Pearl Jam, My Morning Jacket and Widespread Panic.

Couplemeter

Camilla Belle was spotted having lunch with "Twilight" hottie Rob Pattinson on Sunday in Venice, Calif., **usmagazine.com** reported. OK so it's just lunch—but it wouldn't be suspiciously scandalous if it weren't for the fact that Belle is the reason why her current boyfriend, Joe Jonas, broke up with country singer Taylor Swift.

Celebrity crime watch



"W." stars **Josh Brolin** (above) and Jeffrey Wright, plus five other crew members from the Oliver Stone biopic, were supposed to be arraigned Tuesday in Shreveport, La., **eonline.com** reported. But the hearing was delayed until Jan. 6 while prosecutors and attorneys work out "a possible resolution" for a July bar brawl.

Gary Coleman (left) pleaded no contest Tuesday to a disorderly conduct charge stemming from a September incident at a Utah bowling alley. The "Diff'rent Strokes" star was bowling with his wife and bodyguard when a man snapped some photos of Coleman, which sparked a scuffle, according to court documents.

Boy George's (left) lawyer told a London court Tuesday that the singer otherwise known as George O'Dowd would not give evidence on charges of handcuffing and roughing up a male escort, Reuters reported.

txtable

Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to **dlhernandez@tribune.com**. For Wednesday, we have Leslie Guiden. Think she's a ringer for Natalie Cole? Text **"cole"** and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. DEAD ON **2. WAY OFF**

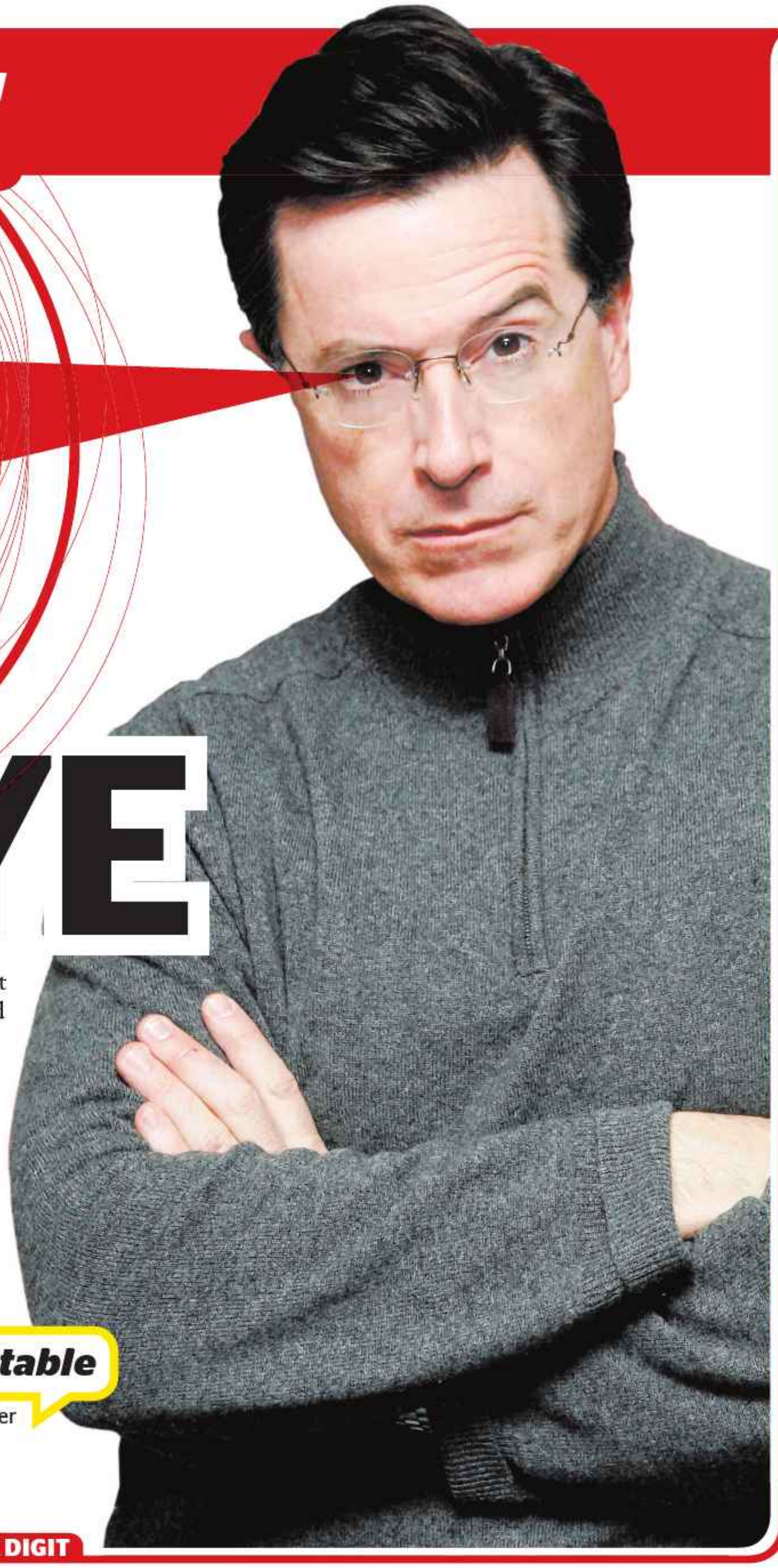
Guiden

Cole

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY TODAY!

red hot

TARGET: KANYE



Stephen Colbert has declared war on Kanye West. In an attempt to take over the top album spot on iTunes currently occupied by Kanye's "808s & Heartbreak" and drum up sales for his own Christmas album, the faux-news host launched "Operation Humble Kanye" on "The Colbert Report" Monday night. (Colbert's "A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All" is currently in 16th place.)

Colbert knocked Kanye's recent declaration that he's the voice of his generation saying, "with all the auto-tuning on your records you're barely the voice of your own albums."

"You want to be the voice of a generation—get in line," Colbert continues. "It goes me, Obama Girl, the **freecreditreport.com** guys—then it's a tie between you and Crocs."

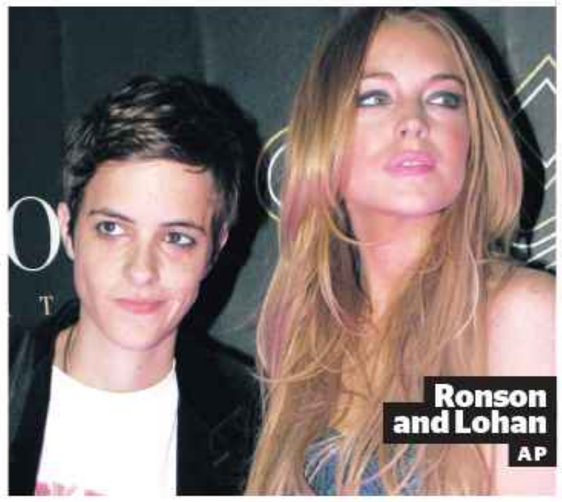
We eagerly await West's all-caps blog rebuttal.

txtable

Who will win the war: Colbert or Kanye? Text **"ego"** and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Kanye West **2.** Stephen Colbert

THE VELVET ROPE



Ronson and Lohan AP

From the blogosphere ...

Lindsay Lohan wants everyone to know that she and gal pal Samantha Ronson are not heading to splitsville.

"Oy vey! Rumors. Just to clear this up, because I have been getting a lot of e-mails asking me this one question ... Samantha Ronson and Lindsay Lohan (me) are NOT breaking up," LiLo blogged Monday on her MySpace Celebrity page.

She even posted that the current song she was listening to was "Happy Together" by The Turtles.

So there you have it.

B.I.G. music news

What would a Notorious B.I.G. project be without some Diddy involvement?

MTV News has confirmed that the soundtrack to the Biggie biopic, "Notorious," will be released by Diddy's Bad Boy record label.

The soundtrack will feature Jay-Z on a Kanye West-produced track called "Brooklyn (We Go Hard)." Though other artists are still being confirmed, there's talk that Biggie's son, Christopher Wallace Jr., might appear on one of the tracks, MTV reports.

The soundtrack is set to drop Jan. 13, three days before the movie opens.

Fur real

Brad Pitt is bringing 'stachey back.

"I don't think 'staches are respected enough," a mustachioed Pitt said during a recent screening of his upcoming movie, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

He's sporting the facial hair while shooting "Inglourious Basterds," a war flick.

In other Bradgelina news, Pitt told the "Today" show that he'd consider marrying Angelina Jolie should it become important to their six kids.

HOT DATE

APRIL 28 When Britney Spears performs at Allstate Arena in Rosemont.

THE DIGIT

3.7M The average number of viewers "Britney: For The Record" pulled in on Sunday, according to The Hollywood Reporter.